

On Top Of The News

Email: news@arubatoday.com

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Monday, April 27, 2009

INSIDE TODAY

WORLD NEWS

MEXICO SWINE FLU



A woman wearing a surgical facemask stands next to an image of the Virgin of Guadalupe, Mexico's patron saint, at the Basilica of Guadalupe in Mexico City, Sunday, April 26, 2009. Churches stood empty Sunday in Mexico City after services were canceled, and health workers screened airports and bus stations for people sickened by a new strain of swine flu that experts fear could become a global epidemic.

See INTERNATIONAL NEWS

SPORTS NEWS

CLEVELAND ROCKS



Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James shouts after dunking against the Detroit Pistons in the second half of a first-round NBA playoff basketball game Friday, April 24, 2009, in Auburn Hills, Mich. The Cavaliers defeated the Pistons 79-68 to take a 3-0 lead in the best-of-seven series.

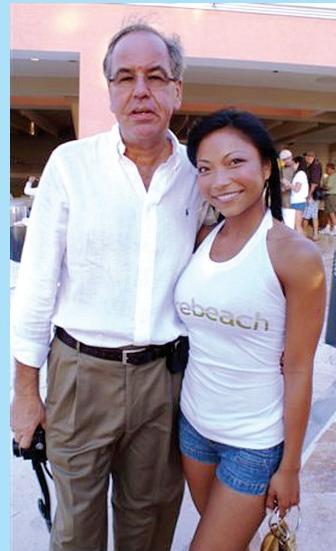
See Sports Today



**Price of a barrel
of petroleum
today:**

US\$ 51.55

Famed New England Patriots Cheerleaders add sparkle to Pure Beach



DIVIPHOENIX—Managing Director Alex Nieuwmeyer and his management team welcomed the New England Patriots Cheerleaders to Aruba at a sunset cocktail party at Pure Beach, Divi Phoenix.

The girls are on the island to shoot a glamorous calendar and while they are staying at



Mega Divi they took the trip up the strip to Palm Beach to admire the brand new, sophisticated beach lounge, at Divi Phoenix -- take a look at their tee-shirts, it simply states Pure Beach.

Nieuwmeyer has also invited the high energy, beautiful

squad to attend a cocktail party with the Rotary Club members at Windows on Aruba. And as part of their official program here the cheerleaders will play a game of beach volleyball on Wednesday and perform a pre-game show on Thursday

at the Pelican Bar, at Mega Divi.

The 2010 Swimsuit Calendar will be reversible and feature 24 beautiful photos of the New England Patriots Cheerleaders against the backdrop our beaches.

Continued on page 12

Indiana Furniture enjoys a welcome reception on the Festival Plaza



ORANJESTAD — The just-arrived guests of Indiana Furniture congregated at sunset on the Renaissance Festival Plaza, for a tropical Bon Bini welcome reception.

Rich Slayton, Indiana Furniture President and CEO reported that the wood furniture manufacturer is located in Jasper, Indiana. This year, one hundred and seventy executives with their spouses and guests, hailing from all over the United States, were invited to mix a little business with pleasure on the island of Aruba. The company already visited the island ten years ago enjoying

the hospitality of the then-Sonesta, now-Renaissance, and nineteen of the company's top performers of 1999, are on the island again, in 2009, for a repeat visit.

During the four day program, Rich Slayton Chief Executive Officer, Mike Blessinger Vice President of Sales and Marketing, Bret Ackerman Chief Financial Officer and Mark Plummer Vice President of Manufacturing, took their hard-working people on a much-deserved teambuilding jeep rally and entertained them on Renaissance Private island, for a Carnival farewell evening orchestrated by ECO DMS, Aruba's most dynamic destination management company, in collaboration with Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino.

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PASEO HERENCIA - For a great and unique lunch and dinner experience, you definitely have to go to Moby Dick's Seafood Restaurant.

This is the only place on the island to savor the legendary Bloody Oyster - the ultimate delicacy



only known by deep sea connoisseurs who take pleasure in its delight on Sunday mornings. No need to wait for Sunday for this deep sea concoction of Fresh Oysters, Cooked Shrimp, Cold Vodka, Tomato Juice, Tabasco, Lime Juice, Black Pepper

and Celery.

Moby Dick's weekly lunch specials include the Famed Fish & Chips (Beer battered grouper fillet with malt vinegar & chips for only \$11.95.)

The Amazing Angus Wrap and other Memorable Sandwiches are absolutely delicious just as their dearly loved desserts. The inconceivable cocktails are even more reasons to visit this great place.

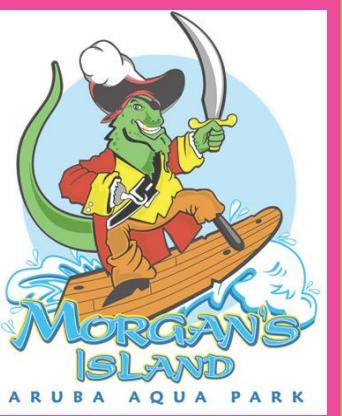
A must visit lunch appointment for great value, amazing décor, picture perfect outdoor terrace, across the street from the High-Rise hotels at the popular Paseo Herencia Mall.

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For reservations please call (297) 586-8333

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Take out available from 11 am.



Paseo Herencia Mall across from the Holiday Inn Call: 586-2211 or ask your concierge.



*With spectacular Marqués de Cáceres wines
Kisses and lots of passion at Besame Mucho*

Dinner as Arion and Passions come together

The upcoming Besame Mucho dinner of the Friends of Arion promises to be fantastic. Held at Passions on the beach of the Amsterdam Manor Beach Resort, this three-course dinner is held on Wednesday, April 29, the start of a long, relaxing weekend. The wines that are poured are by the Spanish house of Marqués de Cáceres and subtle touches of Spanish flavors will be swirling around all evening. Passions Restaurant and the Arion Wine Company have teamed up to make the evening really special. Will you be singing along with the song Besame Mucho?

The menu of the evening has been carefully matched to the wines by Passions' Food & Beverage Manager Marc Giesbers and Arion's Govert van der Hout. The fun begins when tapas are served with a glass of chilled Rosado rosé during a toast to the sunset at 6.30 p.m. As everyone is seated a Salad of Marinated Asparagus and Grilled Tiger Prawns, Caramelized Bacon and Roasted Red Pepper Aioli will be enhanced by a glass of dry, young, white Rioja. Waiters will be pouring the Crianza of Marqués de Cáceres, the number one selling Rioja in the US, when the Grilled Beef Tenderloin accompanied with a Red Wine Gravy and a Roasted Vegetable Pincho and Potato Casserole comes along. The Dessert is Mixed Berries with a light, foamy Champagne Zabaione. The price of all of the above, plus kisses, is AWG. 99-- or US \$ 54.—per person.

Govert van der Hout of the Arion Wine Company is delighted to introduce his wines by Marqués de Cáceres. The Rioja has been getting rave reviews already; now he is presenting a white and rosé wine by this popular, top European winemaker. Should you wish to make reservations, please call Passions Restaurant at the Amsterdam Manor Beach Resort at 527-1129 and start practicing singing Besame Mucho in the shower, please. For more information about the wines, please call the Arion Wine Company at 583-3325/594-3323.



Aruba Tourism Conference concludes



PALM BEACH – The Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa hosted the Aruba Tourism Conference 2009 General Session, at the conclusion of the four-day affair.

The Minister of Transportation and Tourism, Ing. Edison Briesen welcomed delegates to the Grand Caribbean Ballroom assisted by Myrna Jansen-Feliciano, Director of ATA, the Aruba Tourism Authority and Rob Smith, CEO of AHATA, the Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association.

The official morning program included a presentation by the directors of marketing of both organizations: Fritz

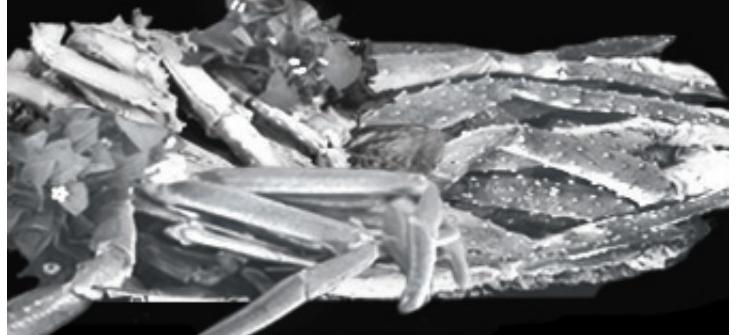


Israel on behalf of ATA and Sanju Daryanani on behalf of AHATA.

Both officials outlined Aruba's marketing efforts and briefed ATCA delegates on the planned activities and on the island's business outlook. Aruba's advertising company LOWE and its PR Agency, MSILVER, also shared creative plans for 2009 and accomplishments in 2008.

Especially interesting and informative was the presentation of the Aruba Airport Authority commenting on the business of arrivals & departures just before guest speaker Daniel Levine offered "Discovering the Fountain of Truth," which was designed to enlighten delegates, all tourism professionals, on how to learn about destination marketing from global cultural trends.

MONDAY'S CRAB NIGHT



\$ 34.95 per person
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Caesar salad with fresh Caribbean shrimp and Mandarin orange slices
The GIANT crab sampler includes Alaskan king crab legs, snow crab legs, fried soft shell crab, stuffed crab back, Maryland crab cake, lemon, Tartar sauce and drawn butter.



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Atacho: POK meeting in October not realistic

WILLEMSTAD--It simply does not make sense for parliamentarians of the Netherlands, the Netherlands Antilles, and Aruba to discuss the future of the Parliamentary Consultation POK in October when the dismantling of the Antilles is almost complete, says President of the Antillean Parliament Pedro Atacho.

Atacho has learned from media reports that the planned POK meeting in June has been definitely postponed to 2010, by which time the new countries of St. Maarten and Curaçao should become a reality.

Meeting in October to discuss two points which will include the future of the

tripartite consultation will make no sense, because by the end of the year, the new entities would have to start making their decisions on how to proceed, he added.

Originally, the parliamentary representatives of the three Kingdom partners had decided in January to meet in June and discuss 10

agenda points. However, this agreement began to fray when the Dutch parliamentarians insisted on discussing the Consensus Kingdom Laws - a topic Atacho firmly believed belonged solely to the individual parliaments. "POK is not a platform for these laws."

In due time, the Antilles

Parliament will send a special representative to sit with the Dutch Parliament Second Chamber to discuss the Consensus Kingdom Laws, but insisting that this becomes a part of the POK is out of the question.

In its motivation for the postponement, the Dutch Parliament also said by October, the report on the Democratic Deficit of the Kingdom will be completed by the committee headed by Deputy Ministry Plenipotentiary Mavis Brooks-Salmon.

Atacho said the Antilles has been in a democratic deficit for 55 years, so there was no need to postpone the meeting until the report is completed. It was a pity, he added, that parties could not stick to the agreement made in January.

This postponement spells the end of the consultation under the present constellation of the Netherlands Antilles and it is now up to the new entities to take up the reins, he pointed out.

Another reason October will not be feasible for the Antillean Parliamentarians is their packed agenda later in the year. Parliament has to handle and approve all pending Consensus Kingdom Laws as well as others that are necessary for the new countries to be birthed.

Atacho will meet informally with his counterpart of Aruba and the Netherlands during the upcoming Kingdom Games in Aruba.

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Prize Give Away from 4pm - 7pm
Triple Points from 7pm - 9pm

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WEDNESDAY

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Prize Give Away from 4pm - 7pm
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Remember the time
**Sunset Grille offers a special “retro menu” in honor
of the resort’s 50th anniversary!**



PALM BEACH – The Sunset Grille Restaurant at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa is celebrating the hotel's 50th anniversary.

Designed by legendary American architect Morris Lapidus, the resort opened as the Aruba Caribbean in July of 1959 and was immediately dubbed La Grande Dame, because of its picturesque beauty and elegant style.

As part of the planned festivities commemorating long-gone times and 50 years of genuine hospitality, the Sunset Grille chef, Martin Smeets, created a retro menu, reflecting on the 50's eating style of yester-years.

The menu is offered every evening, at \$50.- per person, plus service charge and tax. The retro menu
Ice berg wedge salad, 60's

style: Created in the late 1950, before the arrival of mesclun, frisse lettuce or spring mix, the American wedge type salad was a big time favorite of culinary celebrity James Beard. At the Sunset Grille restaurant it is being served as crisp baby iceberg topped with heirloom tomatoes, roasted red peppers, scallions, calamata olives and ranch dressing.

The Beef Wellington: The history of Beef Wellington is a matter of historic contention. One story claims that it was named after Arthur Wellesley, first Duke of Wellington, the man who crushed Napoleon at Waterloo. At the Sunset Grille Restaurant the Beef Wellington delivers a petit fillet mignon wrapped in puff pastry, served with mashed potatoes and haricot verts almondin, accompanied by a Cabernet wine sauce. History

can tell that this was a Dwight D. Eisenhower favorite! Patrons may also opt for an Old Fashioned Seafood Casserole, as immortalized by Julia Child, Emmy award winner of "The French Chef" TV show, whose kitchen was displayed in the National Museum of American History! No doubt Julia Child loved her seafood casserole, with layers of Idaho potatoes sandwiched in with fresh seafood in saffron sauce and a colorful medley of vegetables. Banana Foster: Remember the old days of Banana Foster? Created in the 50's in honor of former chairman of the New Orleans Crime commission, Richard Foster, it features marinated banana in cinnamon, banana liqueur and rum. Served with Haagen Dazs ice cream and whipped cream. Sensational. So Simple and sensational.

Reservations requested.

Pictured here the staff of the Sunset Grille Restaurant with their

AAA 4-diamond recognition, and the resort's commemorative 50th anniversary logo.

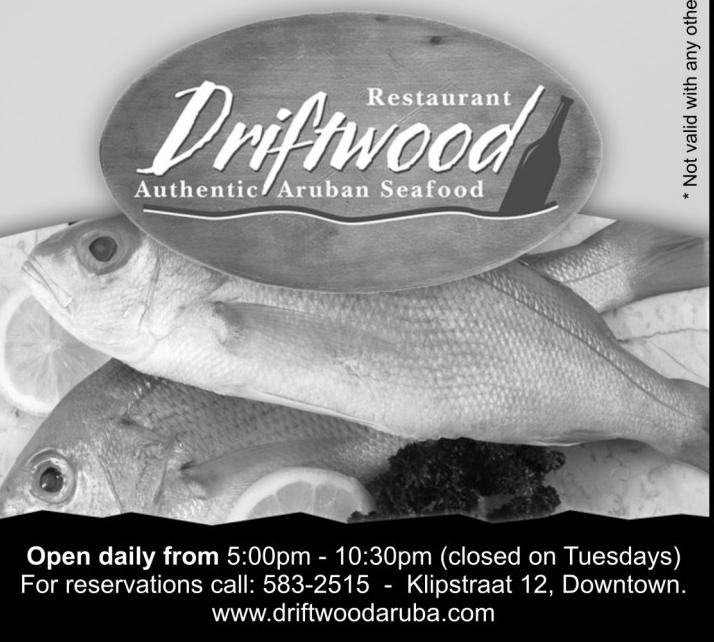
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Marriott Vacation Club International (MVCI) is its associates.
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Hendrik - Sales Executive

I received seven full weeks of Marriott training, transforming a talent for sales into a high level of professional success. I have been with MVCI for five years, raising my standing to the 'Ambassador Club', which brings both greater financial rewards as well as a higher level of personal satisfaction and success.

Come and Join us!



Nayda - Sales Executive

Everyday we go over sales techniques, and each day I accomplish more than I thought I could do. I have grown both on a personal and professional level, maintaining both focus and a positive attitude. Six years with MVCI has taught me to always believe in myself and that the 'sky is the limit'.

Find out more



Andreas - Sales Executive

I just started with MVCI last year, and have already benefitted from incredible training as well as from the support of my fellow associates. You can succeed in reaching your dreams here. If you have high goals, MVCI hands you the rope and the tools to climb and to reach your maximum potential.

Take the challenge!



Ursly - Marketing Executive

I am a person who loves to explore new opportunities and to get involved, so MVCI was a perfect fit for me. Working with MVCI has empowered me to take on new challenges, visualize my dreams and find personal and professional success.

Why not give it a try?



Carlos - Marketing Executive

In the two years I have worked with MVCI, I have learned how to talk to people and work in a team. It has contributed to my goals of maintaining a positive mind and a happy heart. I love working with people.

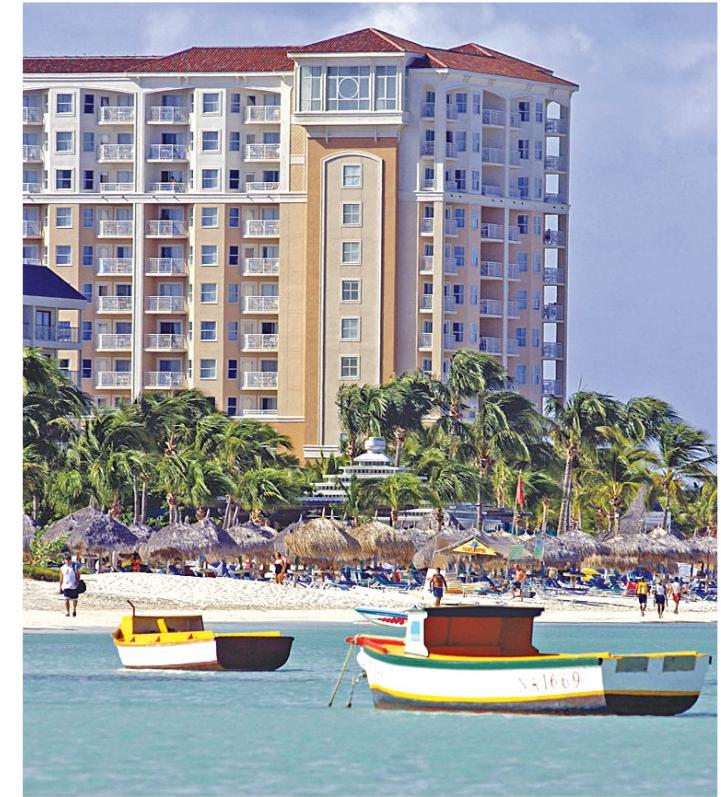
Come and Take a look!

Hendrik, Nayda, Adreas, Ursly and Carlos invite you to come and take a look and see if working with MVCI is the career for you. You won't be sorry. Just like us, it might be the most important phone call you make. Contact us at Tel: 520-6952 or e-mail us at: aruba.talent@vacationclub.com



MVCI celebrates 25 years of Unforgettable vacations

Marriott's Aruba Ocean Club, Marriott's Aruba Surf Club remain prime locations

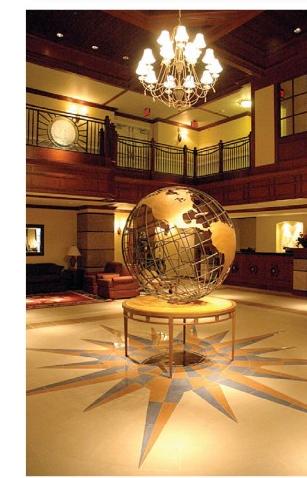


ORANJESTAD – In its silver anniversary year, Marriott Vacation Club International (MVCI) will welcome back an astonishing 400,000 vacation owners to its individual properties in Aruba as well

as throughout the world. In 1984, Marriott became the first branded hospitality company by nearly a decade to enter the timeshare industry. Its entry into the market was followed by a string of successes, which

include the award-winning vacation ownership properties of Marriott's Aruba Ocean Club and Marriott's Aruba Surf Club. Built on the "Marriott Way" philosophy, with excellence in accommodations, amenities and especially customer service a primary focus, vacation ownership with MVCI has flourished to now include choices of 50 resorts in 30 destinations with more than 10,600 villas worldwide. While it is often the beauty of the properties themselves, set in idyllic environments, which win over MVCI owners and members, the benefits of quality management and unique flexibility ensure lifelong satisfaction in unforgettable vacation experiences.

The industry took notice of MVCI's winning ways, bestowing the business world's highest honor of the Stevie™ on MVCI in different categories over several years. MVCI won for "Best Sales Organization" at the inaugural of the American Business Awards in 2003, and again in 2006 and 2008. In 2007, MVCI also received recognition as the "Best Customer Service Organization". The secret for MVCI's success, in achieving both tremendous growth and high satisfaction rates among its clientele, can be attributed to an



immense amount of imagination and innovation.

MVCI has, in fact, managed to redefine the timeshare industry. It was the first to replace industry-standard fixed weeks with seasonally-based, floating time. By tailoring ownership to better suit its members, MVCI has quickly expanded. In 1996, it was the first branded hospitality company to enter the timeshare industry in Europe with the opening of Marriott's Marbella Beach Resort on Spain's Costa del Sol. Another first was achieved in 2001 with the opening of Marriott's Phuket Beach Club in Thailand representing the milestone of the first branded hospitality company to enter the timeshare industry in Asia.

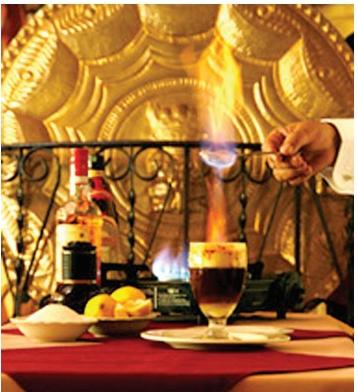
Along with the option to exchange weeks with priority

within the Marriott Vacation Club portfolio, MVCI owners also have access to Interval International's global system of more than 2,300 resorts in over 75 countries. With an ability to vacation almost anytime of the year, anywhere in the world, MVCI owners enjoy countless possibilities.

In Aruba, many MVCI members choose to remain at the treasured location of either Marriott's Aruba Ocean Club or Marriott's Aruba Surf Club for their annual vacation, keeping the destination on the top tier of the most requested locations. But on the occasions that travel is not possible, MVCI even offers owners the opportunity to trade their time for Marriott Rewards points, or even rent their weeks. With MVCI celebrating its 25 years of unforgettable vacations, there is no better time to consider the benefits of vacation ownership with the Marriott. For a limited time only, on certain inventories, owners and non-owners purchasing at Marriott's Aruba Surf Club are eligible for special offers in celebration of this 25th anniversary.

For more information about MVCI, please visit the sales gallery located in Marriott's Aruba Ocean Club, call Tel: 586-2641, or visit the website: www.vacationclub.com or www.marriottsurbasurfcclub.com.

The French Steakhouse delivers an Ooh-La-La experience



prides itself on the elegant dining experience it offers patrons in the fully air-conditioned dining room. Yet recently the idea of adding a garden spot to the existing blueprint began to sprout in the creative mind of Executive Chef George Hoek, and he immediately recruited the landscapers to create the intimate, lovely setting.

The French Steakhouse Ooh-La-La menu is now served indoor

and alfresco, featuring creative appetizers, soups, salads, seafood dishes, poultry and the Pièce de Résistance South American & USDA Beef specialties.

Among popular appetizers the chef's Tropical Crab Cakes with pineapple & mango salsa and the Teriyaki Glazed Seared Duck Breast, served with garden greens and balsamic dressing are real crowd pleasers.

True to the restaurant's French roots, the Onion Soup is a classic, while the Honey Glazed Salmon Salad winks at the exotic East with a sweet soy dressing.

The menu features a great variety of seafood dishes from fresh fish to the totally sinful and amazingly-decadent Caribbean Stuffed Shrimp with Crabmeat and Bacon, which became an instant hit. The tequila and sweet chili glaze, lends the Jumbo shrimp a pure taste of heaven!

The French Steakhouse is naturally famous for the South American Churrasco steak, a signature preparation, which now shares the stage with juicy USDA beef specialties such as NY Sirloin and Filet Mignon. Light-eaters will find the Jerk Chicken Skewers and the Lemon Herb Broilers very satisfying. Open seven days a week from 5:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. the French



Steakhouse is blessed with the nicest staff and a delightfully renovated dining room with sparkling China, crisp linen, an interesting bread basket, colossal desserts and live jazz on piano with Eddy Samson who is Aruba's best entertainer, and a walking & breathing music encyclopedia,

just whistle the tune, and Eddy will produce a symphonic version of your favorite song.

Hungry patrons will appreciate the Ambassador's 5-course menu featuring the run of the menu highlights for just \$34.95 per person. www.manchebo.com. steakhouse

Pega Pega Café & Beach Bar reinvents Beach Cuisine

EAGLE BEACH — Pega Pega Café & Beach Bar at the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa deserves recognition as the home of Beach Cuisine.

Executive Chef George Hoek and his culinary team serve a Sun Splashed menu on the ocean front terrace, raising the bar to a must-visit, must-try status.

The contemporary menu, lists many favorite dishes from around the world, borrowing inspiration from US, Mexican, Thai, Jamaican, Cuban, Greek and Mediterranean kitchens, all served with a tropical, Caribbean flair.

From Sun-Sational Salads, to Cuban pressed jawbreakers and wraps, mid-day platters also include oversize Beef Burgers, Philly Cheese Steak Sandwiches and Hot Dogs.

The Pega Pega tropical & frozen



cocktail list, with fresh fruit or ice cream smoothies, daiquiris, coladas and margaritas, leaves nothing out, including Yellow Birds, Sex on the Beach and Mudslides, making a lunch-time brain-freeze, extremely easy to get!

The Pega Pega, one of Aruba's oldest beach bars is open on fabulous Eagle Beach, with unrivaled views, caring, gracious service, and relaxed atmosphere, from 12 noon to 5 p.m. The bar opens at 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.



Giorgio's Ristorante Italiano



EAGLE BEACH -- Giorgio's Ristorante Italiano located at the heart of the low-rise hotels at the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa, delivers authentic Mediterranean flavors.

If you are craving grilled eggplant topped with capers and feta cheese, chased by a creamy heap of piping hot Fettuccini Alfredo, followed by a tremendous, cut-with-a-fork Osso Bucco, just one visit to this poolside garden terrace will satisfy all desires for the robust flavors of Italy.

The restaurant's Chef Giorgio concocted an irresistible menu of classic specialties with a contemporary feel, including a very affordable Pizza selection. Patrons rave about the thin crusts and rich toppings, classic pies made to order and served with a genuine Italian accent. Angelo, the Maitre D is Italian, of course.

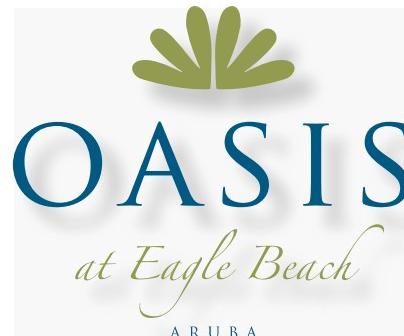


From Anti Pasti to Insalata, Zuppa to Pesce, the menu welcomes diners with familiar recipes, which distinctly demonstrates the chef's many cooking talents, and the Pasta menu is perfect for sharing. You will find the world's most popular dishes on the Piatti Principali list, to be enjoyed under the canopy or under the stars with a great bottle of wine. Open daily for dinner.

Eagle Beach to be enriched with an Oasis

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mon area to lounge and relax.

Further amenities include a 24/7 security, a full concierge and a rental program for the owners who want to earn a return on their investment. The concierge service will be helpful to assist the owners in making their 'homecoming' a very pleasant return. Each condo will have one designated parking space exclu-

35 EXCLUSIVE OCEAN VIEW UNITS STARTING IN THE LOW 400'S

sive to the owners.

Construction on Oasis at Eagle Beach is moving fast. Fifteen of the thirty five units have already been sold. The condominiums will be ready for occupancy by March 2010. Oasis is located on Eagle Beach which allows for an easy access, even on foot, to the best casinos, restaurants, golf courses, shopping areas and night life the Aruba has to offer.

The experienced sales team of Oasis invites you for a visit to learn about this new gem on the beach.

The site tour will take you up in the complex where you will enjoy spectacular views of the ocean and beach as well as a wonderfull view of Oranjestad where the cruise ships are docked. The views from the rooftop terrace are stunning to say the least. The Oasis sales team is ready to assist you.

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EAGLE BEACH - Oasis Luxury Condominiums is a Mediterranean-style designed complex located on the prestigious Eagle Beach right next to Chalet Suisse consisting of a total of 35 units distributed on five (5) floors. The one, two and three bedroom suites have a perfect view of the ocean and beach. The units include, among other amenities, floor to ceiling glass doors and panoramic windows, spacious terraces, marble bathrooms, European kitchens with granite counter tops and a full stainless steel appliance package including washer and dryer. This 35-condominium complex will feature a beautiful swimming pool with a beach style entry with

waterfalls and fountain and state of the art fiber optic lighting. The entrance of the building has a drive-up covered entrance and an elegant two-story lobby leading to the sun-filled hallways and corridors.

The common area will facilitate the owners with a well-equipped gym overlooking the gardens and the pool. The garden will feel like an oasis true to the projects name. There will also be a recreation room and sofas throughout the com

Delivering innovative technology

Geox now open at the Renaissance Mall



ORANJESTAD - Geox Aruba enjoyed a warm reception as it opened at the Renaissance Mall in Oranjestad. The concept shoe store had shoppers knocking on its door even before completing the setup, they were asking to make purchases even before the store-sign was up. The popular Italian brand, enjoys a dedicated following in the USA and Europe, and now also in Aruba. The Geox genesis goes back to the '90s during a business

trip to Reno Nevada to promote the family wine business at a trade fair Italian businessman Mario Polegato decided to go for hike in the mountains.

Soon he became irritated by his overheating feet, baking inside his rubber-soled shoes, and in a flash of inspiration the 'shoes that breathe' were born as he punctured holes in the soles to let air in and excess heat escape. Polegato knew from the beginning that the idea would be revolutionary and that it would change the way people think

about their shoes.

Polegato went home to Italy and patented the technology according to which outsoles are perforated in the forefoot area where most sweat glands are located. The micro-porous membrane he designed features holes smaller than water molecules, but larger than vapor molecules. The membrane is inserted inside the sole to allow on-going ventilation, preventing water and debris from coming anywhere near feet.

The fruit of Polegato's flash inspiration is a comfortable line of footwear especially suited for active feet and for anyone working on his feet, standing, or walking for an extended period of time.

The benefits of having Happy Feet is enormous, resulting mostly in a happier facial expression and a general feeling of well-being, which is especially true for women who often buy shoes based on aesthetics, sacrificing comfort.

With Geox, no sacrifices are required, the shoes are beautiful,



stylish, well made and durable. Geox, hailing from Italy, has been in the US market since 2004 and enjoys in general great popularity on an international level.

To admire the amazing collection for men, women and children, visit the Geox Store at Renaissance Mall; the shoes are blessed by Italian design and combine style and functionality. Geox Aruba, Renaissance Mall, tel.: 588 6736, Geox@setarnet.aw



"Aruhiba" Aruba's homemade cigar



ORANJESTAD - Benjamin Petrochi has started the newest

export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called 'Aruhiba'. These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrochi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold cigars from outside, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of "Aruhiba" cigars in Aruba. The process took 5 years Petrochi's dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and



process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar case is specially designed for the cigars with the logo 'Aruhiba' and 'Made in Aruba'. Petrochi considers 'Aruhiba' a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars.

The company sells international cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba Corona with five cigars and get 1 free for \$35.00. Located at the Historic Dutch



Windmill from 9am to 8pm. Open on Sunday. And also at Tamarijn: open 9am - 5pm and Sunday from 9am to 1pm.

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At the Crystal Theater

"Havana Dance," is the hottest Cuban show on the island



ORANJESTAD - The elegant Crystal Theater sparkles with all the excitement of Las Vegas as the magnificent "Havana

Dance" explodes on stage with a thrilling mix of Latin & Cuban music, colorful costumes and high energy, contemporary Cuban

dance.

"Havana Dance" is the biggest stage production in the Caribbean, featuring Cuban dancers and entertainers directly from Havana. The show delivers a purely Cuban spectacle, with a cast of 12 female ballerinas, 4 male dancers, 2 singers and 3 acrobats, performing a fresh program accompanied by live Cuban music performed on stage by a genuine Cuban orchestra, consisting of 5 professional Cuban musicians. This live dance AND live music combination as seen in our pictures, is 'first of its kind' on the island.

While the greater part of the "Havana Dance" review enjoys predominantly Cuban flavor, the show is graced with a truly unique Caribbean choreography, and many tropical touches. "Havana Dance" unfolds on a two-tiered stage, with entrances and exits to and off the arena at different heights, which presents a



new visual concept. The custom-designed costumes are sensual, daring, colorful, and luxurious and set "Havana Dance" apart from any other cabaret.

Producer Steve Hudson who enjoyed an unprecedently-successful seven-year run with his previous "Let's Go Latin" review, conceived and created an exciting and much-evolved new must-see spectacle.

Tickets for "Havana Dance" are US\$ 49.- Children under 12 pay US\$25.-

Tickets are available at the theater box office, Renaissance Aruba Resort, and can also be purchased

at the concierge's desk at the Renaissance Aruba Resort. Other ticket vendors include the De Palm Tours and Pelican Adventure Activity Centers at the resorts. A special dinner & show package is also available in conjunction with the L.G. Smith's Steak & Chop House for US\$89.- per person.

For additional information and reservations call the Crystal Theatre at Tel.: 583 6000, ext. 6115, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. After 5 p.m., call tel.: 583 6000 ext. 6357. Don't miss an opportunity to be greatly entertained by the sizzle of "Havana Dance." □





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Nestled on the northwest part of the island, Tierra del Sol offers luxury living at its finest. On any given day guests may savor award-winning cuisine, pamper themselves at the spa, work out at the fitness center, tee off on an 18-hole championship golf course, and play tennis under the stars. As part of the Tierra del Sol Master Plan, new

neighborhood communities are being developed and built with the foresight and detail it takes to ensure the highest quality lifestyle. At the present

time a select offering of brand new luxury estate homes, villas and condominiums, both built and under construction, as well as the fractional luxury

residences of Anabui, are available for purchase, by contacting the sales gallery in the club house.

WEST PUNT – Tierra del Sol department of human resources orchestrated an informal appreciation party in honor of first quarter top achievers.

The handsome certificates were presented by Bas van der Nieuwenhuijzen who on behalf of the management team congratulated winners for a job well done.

Tierra del Sol team of super-achievers included Olga Gaviria, Body & Soul Spa, Deborah Kelly, Accounting, Cesar Cuesta, Vacation Rentals, Eduardo Magafona, Engineering and Eliseo

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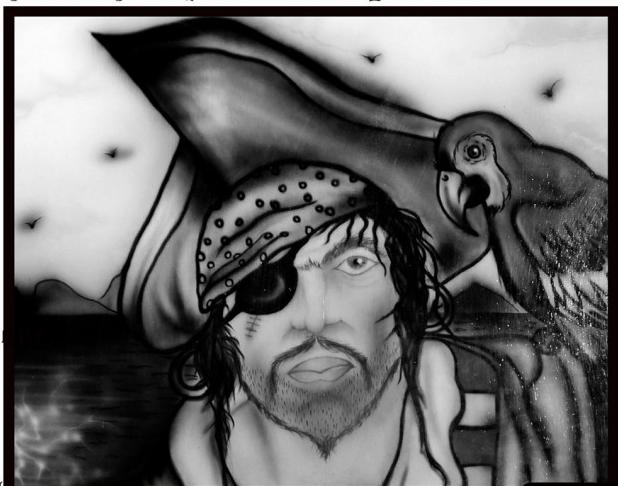
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Famed New England Patriots Cheerleaders add sparkle to Pure Beach



DIVI PHOENIX – Managing Director Alex Nieuwmeyer and his management team welcomed the New England Patriots Cheerleaders to Aruba at a sunset cocktail party at Pure Beach, Divi Phoenix. The girls are on the island to shoot a glamorous calendar and while they are staying at Mega Divi they took the trip up the strip to Palm Beach to admire the brand new, sophisticated beach lounge, at Divi Phoenix -- take a look at their tee-shirts, it simply states Pure Beach.

Nieuwmeyer has also invited the high energy, beautiful squad to attend a cocktail party with the Rotary Club members at Windows on Aruba. And as



part of their official program here the cheerleaders will play a game of beach volleyball on Wednesday and perform a pre-game show on Thursday at the Pelican Bar, at Mega Divi.

The 2010 Swimsuit Calendar will be reversible and feature 24 beautiful photos of the New England Patriots Cheerleaders against the backdrop our beaches.



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John Chemaly Sr.

Managing Director

John A. Chemaly Jr.

General Manager

Grace Mary Maduro

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Editor-in-Chief

Julia C. Renfro
news@arubatoday.com

Assistant Editors

Angela Muzenhofer
Annalisa Gesterkamp

Contributing Editors

Jan Falcone
Tito Lacle
Dilma Arends

Sports, Health & Business

Richard Brooks

Page Designer
Dina Maria

Advertising Coordinator

Sandra Loefstop



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Swine Flu Outbreak -- Nature Biting Back at Industrial Animal Production?

Officials from the CDC and USDA will soon arrive in Mexico to help investigate the deadly new influenza virus that managed to jump from pigs to people in a previously unseen mutated form that can readily spread among humans.

One of the first things they will want to look at are the hundreds of industrial-scale hog facilities that have sprung up around Mexico in recent years, and the thousands of people employed inside the crowded, pathogen-filled confinement buildings and processing plants.

Industry calls these massive compounds "confined animal feeding operations," or CAFOs (KAY-fohs), though most people know them simply as "factory farms." You have seen them before while flying: Long white buildings lined up in tightly packed rows of three, four or more. Within each confinement, thousands of pigs are restricted to indoor pens and grain-fed for market, while breeding sows are kept in small metal crates where they spend most of their lives pregnant or nursing piglets.

In the last several years, U.S. hog conglomerates have opened giant swine CAFOs south of the border, including dozens around Mexico City in the neighboring states of Mexico and Puebla. Smithfield Foods also reportedly operates a huge swine facility in the State of Veracruz, where the current outbreak may have originated. Many of these CAFOs raise tens of thousands of pigs at a time. Cheaper labor costs and a desire to enter the Latin American market are drawing more industrialized agriculture to Mexico all the time, wiping out smaller, traditional farms, which now account for only a small portion of swine production in Mexico.

"Classic" swine flu virus (not the

novel, mutated form in the news) is considered endemic in southern Mexico, while the region around the capital is classified as an "eradication area" - meaning the disease is present, and efforts are underway to control it. For some reason, vaccination of pigs against swine flu is prohibited in this area, and growers rely instead on depopulation and restriction of animal movement when outbreaks occur. U.S. and Mexican epidemiologists and veterinarians will surely want to take swine samples from Mexican CAFOs and examine them for the newly discovered influenza strain (No one knows exactly how long it has been in circulation). And though it is too early to know if this new virus mutated and incubated on Mexican hog CAFOs, the industrialized facilities unquestionably belong on the list of suspects.

Pigs are nature's notorious "mixing bowls" for inter-species infections, and many swine flu viruses have long contained human influenza genetic components. Then, in the late 1990's - when industrialized swine production really took off in North America - scientists were alarmed to find that avian influenza genetic material was also mixed into the continent's viral soup (see below). Fortunately, it was not the dreaded and lethal H5N1 strain, which most people know of as "bird flu."

So where did this new, virulent and highly infectious influenza emerge from? According to Mexico's Health Minister, Jose Angel Cordova, the virus "mutated from pigs, and then at some point was transmitted to humans." It sure sounds like something happened on some farm, somewhere.

For years, leading scientists around the world have worried that large-scale, indoor swine

"factories" would become breeding grounds for new pathogens that could more easily infect humans and then spread out rapidly in the general population - threatening to become a global pandemic.

We know that hog workers in Europe and North America are far more likely than others to be infected with potentially lethal pathogens such as MRSA (Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus), drug-resistant E. coli and Salmonella, and of course, swine influenza. Many scientists also believe that people who work inside CAFOs are more at risk of contracting and spreading these and other "zoonotic" diseases than those working in smaller-scale operations, with outdoor pens or pasture and far lower animal density.

But until now, hog workers with swine flu have rarely gone on to infect other people, save for close family members. And that is why this new strain of swine influenza virus is so vexing - and alarming. It seems to spread quite easily through casual human contact. This new strain making headlines and killing people contains genetic components of human flu virus, avian flu virus and - for the first time ever - two types of swine flu virus: American and Eurasian. "Such a combination of components (genes) was not found so far, neither among humans nor among pigs (as far as we know)," CDC spokesman Tom Skinner said in an email.

Nobody yet knows whether the mysterious mixing of two continents' swine flu genes is what made this outbreak so deadly, and so infectious among people, but you can bet that the world's best labs are already on the case. Another possibility is that a new and more aggressive strain of avian influenza got into

the new mix as well. How could this happen? There are several plausible explanations.

A New Avian Component?
Avian influenza viral components can easily mix with swine flu virus to create new bugs - and this can happen on both traditional hog farms and inside CAFOs, scientists say. Last year, the [Pew Commission on Industrial Farm Animal Production](#) issued a lengthy report on factory farming that included research on emerging forms of avian-swine-human influenza viruses. The molecular forensics of rapidly mutating animal pathogens makes epidemiological investigations all the more challenging, it said. "Populations exposed to infectious agents arising in CAFOs are even more difficult to define as some agents - such as a novel avian influenza virus - may be highly transmissible in or well beyond a community setting," the Pew report stated.

The transmission of avian or swine influenza viruses to humans, the report said, (almost wistfully, in retrospect), "seems a rather infrequent event today."

But the commission also issued this grave and perhaps all-too prescient warning:

The continual cycling of swine influenza viruses and other animal pathogens in large herds or flocks provides increased

opportunity for the generation of novel viruses through mutation or recombinant events that could result in more efficient human-to-human transmission of these viruses. In addition, agricultural workers serve as a bridging population between their communities and the animals in large confinement facilities. This bridging increases the risk of novel virus generation in that human viruses may enter the herds or flocks and adapt to the animals. Reassortant influenza viruses with human components have ravaged the modern swine industry. Such novel viruses not only put the workers and animals at risk of infections, but also potentially increase zoonotic disease transmission risk to the communities where the workers live. For instance, 64% of 63 persons exposed to humans infected with H7N7 avian influenza virus had serological evidence of H7N7 infection following the 2003 Netherlands avian influenza outbreak in poultry. Similarly, the spouses of swine workers who had no direct contact with pigs had increased odds of antibodies against swine influenza virus. Recent modeling work has shown that among communities where a large number of CAFO workers live, there is great potential for these workers to accelerate pandemic influenza virus transmission.

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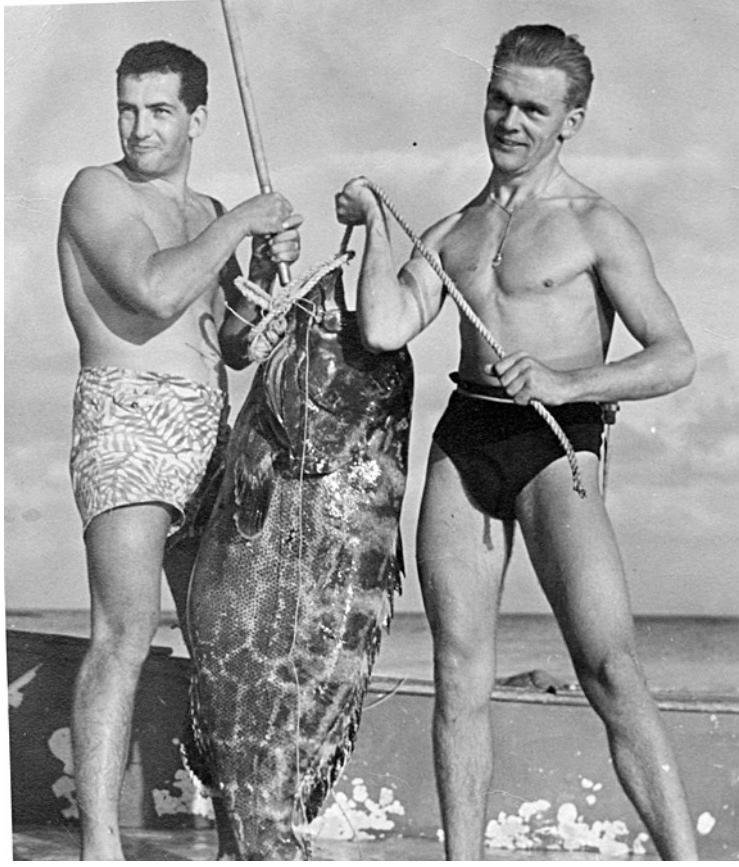


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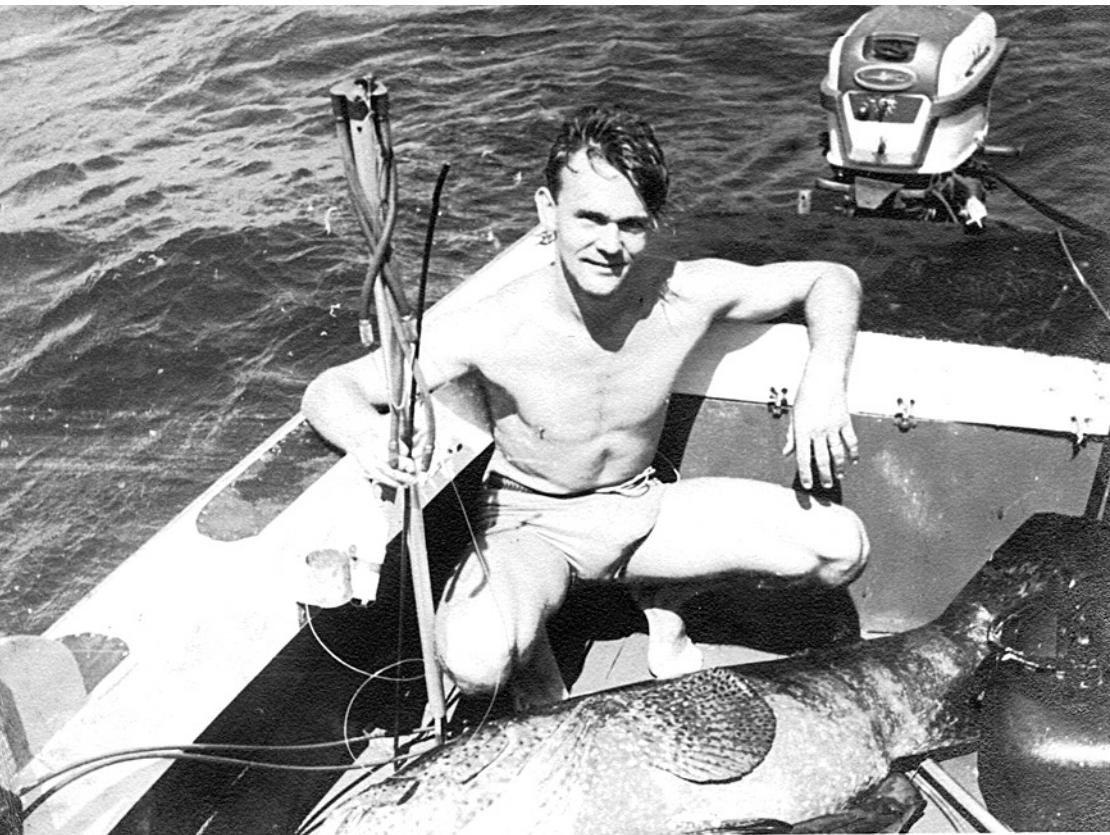
From Germany to Aruba

The Legend of Josef Munzenhofer



ARUBA - (6/20/2035) - (6/26/2009), Josef Munzenhofer, born in a castle in Munich, Germany was a mischievous child growing up during World War II. He became the leader of the pack. He grew up in a little town known as Pahl, Germany. From childhood, Josef was an excellent student, smart in mathematics, good with his hands, designing and creating art pieces. Josef was asked by his teacher what he wanted to be when he grew up "I want to be a chef" he replied and the teacher remarked 'how can my best student be a chef', Josef replied "because I will never go hungry." Josef was taught about the A.B.C islands and it always stayed in his mind. After World War II, many people were leaving Germany to look for jobs; he had the opportunity to go to Canada as a cook.

Josef said goodbye to his mother at age 16 and left for Canada to start his journey as a Chef. He made his way through many countries as a cook, including Switzerland, Canada, Bermuda, Venezuela. While working in Bermuda he also found another passion called spear fishing. Josef followed his dream in 1957 when he heard of an opening at Basiruti Hotel in Aruba. He made Aruba his home. While working at Basiruti he was trying to make extra income and started a farm. He was raising chickens and pigs but didn't have any luck. After 2 years at Basiruti he went to work at the Caribbean Hotel for 10 years. Josef began showing Aruba his ability to create ice sculptures and culinary art. Josef was so special that he was asked to make an ice sculpture for the engagement of Queen Beatrix and Prince Claus. Josef knew



he had a mission to accomplish, a masterpiece that will never be forgotten. It took 7 weeks, 10 hours a day to create the Queens

Castle. Josef experimented with colors for the lions tongue and eyes for the castle. He was pleased with the outcome. His

wish before he died was to see a photo of his creation and the family did everything to make it happen but no one could give him his last wish. He was proud about his masterpiece and told his family that once they see his ice sculpture they would in fact see the marvel of love that he built for his Queen. The family still pray's to see his 2 meter high by 6 meter long ice sculpture. In 1969 he heard the Holiday Inn was looking for a sous chef and Josef applied.

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Continued on page 15

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Continued from page 14

The Holiday Inn opened its doors on October 25, 1969 where he worked until 1980. Holiday Inn entered Josef in many competitions and each time Josef created masterpieces and delighted the judges and the crowd with amazing structures both in ice and culinary..

Josef was part of the first Aruban free diving spear fishing team. Aruba won many competitions including the world championship of the Netherland Antilles and made history. Thanks to Josef and the team consisting of Benny Ras, Victor Tromp, Juan Vrolijk, Damasio Ras and Fanny Ras, Aruba stood out for outstanding love for the sea. Josef mastered everything he touched because



he was passionate about what he loved.

In 1979, Josef Munzenhofer's dream finally became a reality as he built his restaurant stone by stone with pride with his partner Peter Dorer.

In 1980 the Buccaneer was born as Josef opened the doors of a vision which he called his masterpiece. He began the restaurant with only 80 seating's and a 2,500 gallon aquarium, within 6 months they needed to expand. They added another addition with 7,500 gallons of saltwater tank. The restaurant



began with 15 employees and now it employs 28. In 2005 the Buccaneer celebrated 25 years of existence his words were "I am very happy to have found my 3 diamonds in my life which include finding Aruba, my family and the Buccaneer. "My family has been great supporters

and has made this family business a true success." Buccaneer was built on love and now 30 years later Josef will always be remembered through his ocean blue eyes and his big heart.

"God Bless you Josef may you rest in peace."



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PALM BEACH – Fishes and More Restaurant opened up in the Arawak Gardens just 3 and a half years ago and has been a great success since day one.

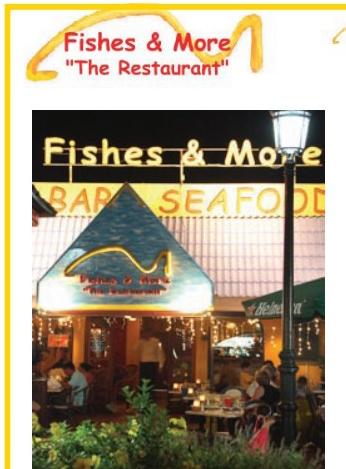
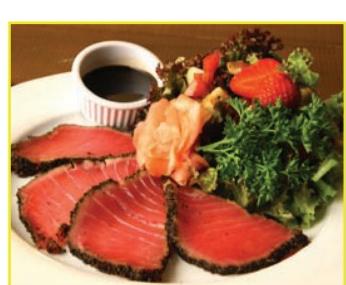
PALM BEACH – Fishes and More Restaurant opened up in the Arawak Gardens just 3 and a half years ago and has been a great success since day one.

Word on the street is that once you eat at **Fishes and More**, consider yourself addicted. The owners Jeroen Kuling and Hans Heijink together with the staff Romalo, Heidi, Mariella, Denise and Chef Gerben work hard keeping the restaurant open 7 days a week from 4 pm till 11pm for everyone to enjoy. The ambiance at the restaurant is out of this world, whether dinning inside or outside on the terrace to enjoy the tropical breeze and daily live music. Most guests come in early for the daily fresh catches, such as Red snapper, grouper, mahi mahi, wahoo and tuna. Check with the server to find out about the Catch of the day. The chef will be more than happy to prepare your fish the way you like it best: grilled, deep-fried, pan-fried or the chef's choice. Every Wednesday, seafood specials are prepared depending on what the Fishermen bring in fresh out of the water that afternoon. These

specials usually include fresh Caribbean lobster and pounds of peeled shrimps. **Fishes and More** is for everyone, from large groups, families, couples and even singles who can't shake the seafood addiction can stop in for a fix of Pina Colada Shrimp. For those who like to try something different or have had their fill of spectacular seafood, the chef prepares a wonderful array of filet mignon, rib eye, wiener schnitzel, veal parmesan, and pasta specialties. **Great Seafood!!!** Fun and relaxed atmosphere. Right across from the high rise hotels. It is worth the short walk to a wonderful dinner □



dinning room or outside on the terrace to enjoy the tropical breeze and daily live music. Most guests come in early for the daily fresh catches, such as Red snapper, grouper, mahi mahi, wahoo and tuna. Check with the server to find out about the Catch of the day. The chef will be more than happy to prepare your fish the way you like it best: grilled, deep-fried, pan-fried or the chef's choice. Every Wednesday, seafood specials are prepared depending on what the Fishermen bring in fresh out of the water that afternoon. These



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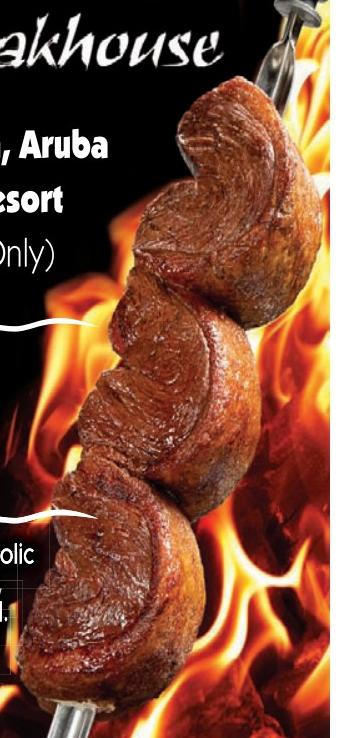
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PALM BEACH – The health and calorie conscious among us need fear steakhouses no more. Whether it's a low-carb, low-fat, or even vegetarian diet you follow, Texas de Brazil Churrascaria fits into just about every dieter's menu plan.

Low carb eaters will have all their expectations surpassed with a tempting carnivorous selection of umpteen cuts of sizzling beef, pork, lamb, sausage, and poultry. The meats are prepared in the healthiest style of cooking—slow roasting—where much of the fat drips off in the roasting process, so those looking for a lower fat option to sautéing, pan frying, or deep frying will also be able to indulge.

The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers up a garden full of healthy eats on a lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the

slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but Texas de Brazil's version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, homemade soups, and much more.

The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, Texas de Brazil will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal.

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**For more information or to
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Dr. Richard Besser, Acting Director of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, speaks in the White House Press Briefing Room during a news conference to discuss reported Swine Flu outbreaks, Sunday, April 26, 2009 in Washington. The U.S. is declaring a public health emergency to deal with the emerging new swine flu.

Associated Press

World governments race to contain swine flu outbreak

LAURAN NEERGAARD
AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The world's governments raced to avoid both a pandemic and global hysteria Sunday as more possible swine flu cases surfaced from Canada to New Zealand and the United States declared a public health emergency. "It's not a time to panic," the White House said. Mexico, the outbreak's epicenter with up to 86 suspected deaths, canceled some church services and closed markets and restaurants. Few people ventured onto the streets, and some wore face masks. Canada became the third country to confirm cases, in six people, including some students who — like some New York City spring-breakers — got mildly ill in Mexico. Countries across Asia promised to quarantine feverish travelers returning from flu-affected areas.

The U.S. declared the health emergency so it could ship

roughly 12 million doses of flu-fighting medications from a federal stockpile to states in case they eventually need them — although, with 20 confirmed cases of people recovering easily, they don't appear to for now.

Make no mistake: There is not a global pandemic — at least not yet. It's not clear how many people truly have this particular strain, or why all countries but Mexico are seeing mild disease. Nor is it clear if the new virus spreads easily, one milestone that distinguishes a bad flu from a global crisis. But waiting to take protective steps until after a pandemic is declared would be too late.

"We do think this will continue to spread but we are taking aggressive actions to minimize the impact on people's health," said Dr. Richard Besser, acting chief of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

President Barack Obama's

administration sought to look both calm and in command, striking a balance between informing Americans without panicking them. Obama himself was playing golf while U.S. officials used a White House news conference to compare the emergency declaration with preparing for an approaching hurricane.

"Really, that's what we're doing right now. We're preparing in an environment where we really don't know ultimately what the size or seriousness of this outbreak is going to be," Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano told reporters.

Earlier, White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said the outbreak was serious, but that the public should know "it's not a time to panic." He told NBC's "Meet the Press" that Obama was getting updates "every few hours" on the situation.

U.S. declares public health emergency for swine flu



Director of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano, right, with White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs, left, speak in the White House Press Briefing Room during a news conference to discuss reported Swine Flu outbreaks, Sunday, April 26, 2009 in Washington. The U.S. is declaring a public health emergency to deal with the emerging new swine flu.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. declared a public health emergency Sunday to deal with the emerging new swine flu, much like the government does to prepare for approaching hurricanes. Officials reported 20 U.S. cases of swine flu in five states so far, with the latest in Ohio and New York. Unlike in Mexico where the same strain appears to be killing dozens of people, cases in the United States have been mild — and U.S. health authorities cannot yet explain why. "As we continue to look for cases, we are going to see a broader spectrum of disease," predicted Dr. Richard Besser, acting chief of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "We're going to see more severe disease in this country." At a White House news conference, Besser and Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano sought to assure Americans that health officials are taking all appropriate steps to minimize the impact of the outbreak.

Top among those is declaring the public health emergency. As part of that, Napolitano said roughly 12 million doses of the drug Tamiflu will be moved from a federal stockpile to places where states can quickly get their share if they decide they need it. Priority will be given to the five states with known cases so far: California, Texas, New York, Ohio and Kansas.

Napolitano called the emergency declaration standard operating procedure — one was declared recently for the presidential inauguration and for Midwest flooding. She urged people to think of it as a "declaration of emergency preparedness."

World Bank: Nations should speed aid to poor

DEB RIECHMANN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The World Bank on Sunday urged donor nations to speed up delivery of the money they've already pledged — and open their wallets wider — to help poor countries reeling from recessions rooted in rich nations. The economic nosedive is turning into a human and development "calamity," which already has driven more than 50 million people into extreme poverty this year, the World Bank's policy steering committee said in a communique issued at the close of its spring meeting.

Continued on page 7

Continued on next page

Flu outbreak

Continued from front page

In Mexico, soldiers handed out 6 million surgical-style masks to deal with a deadly flu strain that officials say may have sickened 1,400 people since April 13. Special laboratory tests to confirm how many died from it — 22 have been confirmed so far out of 86 suspected deaths — are taking time.

The World Bank said it would send Mexico \$25 million in loans for immediate aid and \$180 million in long-term assistance to address the outbreak, along with advice on how other nations have dealt with similar crises.

The World Health Organization and the U.S. were following a playbook of precautions developed over the past five years to prepare for the next super-flu. The WHO on Saturday asked all countries to step up detection of this strain of A/H1N1 swine flu and will reconsider on Tuesday whether to raise the pandemic threat level, in turn triggering additional actions. A potential pandemic virus is defined, among other things, as a novel strain that's not

easily treated. This new strain can be treated with Tamiflu and Relenza, but not two older flu drugs. Also, the WHO wants to know if it's easily spread from one person to a second who then spreads it again — something U.S. officials suspect and are investigating. "Right now we have cases occurring in a couple of different countries and in multiple locations, but we also know that in the modern world that cases can simply move around from single locations and not really become established," cautioned WHO flu chief Dr. Keiji Fukuda.

There is no vaccine against swine flu, but the CDC has taken the initial step necessary for producing one — creating a seed stock of the virus — should authorities decide that's necessary. Last winter's flu shot offers no cross-protection to the new virus, although it's possible that older people exposed to various Type A flu strains in the past may have some immunity, CDC officials said Sunday.

Worldwide, attention focused sharply on travelers.

"It was acquired in Mexico, brought home and spread," Nova Scotia's chief public

health officer, Dr. Robert Strang, said of Canada's first four confirmed cases, in student travelers.

New Zealand said 10 students who took a school trip to Mexico probably had swine flu, and on Monday it said three students in a second group just back from Mexico probably have it as well. Spanish authorities had seven suspected cases under observation. In Brazil, a hospital said a patient who arrived from Mexico was hospitalized with some swine flu symptoms. A New York City school where eight cases are confirmed will be closed Monday and Tuesday.

China, Russia and Taiwan began planning to quarantine travelers arriving from flu-affected areas if they have symptoms. Italy, Poland and Venezuela advised citizens to postpone travel to affected parts of Mexico and the U.S. Multiple airlines, including American, United, Continental, US Airways, Mexicana and Air Canada, are waiving their usual penalties for changing reservations for anyone traveling to, from or through Mexico, but have not



canceled flights.

The U.S. hasn't advised against travel to Mexico but does urge precautions such as frequent hand-washing while there, and has begun questioning arriving travelers about flu symptoms.

Airlines waive change fees amid swine flu outbreak

JEFF CARMON

Associated Press Writer

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — Multiple airlines are waiving change fees for passengers flying through Mexico because of an outbreak of swine flu but have not canceled flights.

Fort Worth, Texas-based American Airlines said Sunday it will waive its usual penalty for changing reservations for anyone traveling to, from or through Mexico from Saturday through May 6. It applies to anyone who bought their ticket before Saturday. American spokesman Tim Smith wrote in an e-mail to The Associated Press that the airline's medical department is "closely monitoring the situation." The airline has not canceled any flights because of swine flu, he said.

Smith also wrote that American has received "a few calls from customers ... but not huge numbers of them seeking changes or information so far." Mexico's health minister said swine flu has killed up to 86 people and likely sickened up to 1,400 since April 13. U.S. health officials declared a public health emergency Sunday, saying 20 swine flu cases have been reported so far in New York, Ohio, Kansas, Texas and California, primarily linked to recent travel to Mexico. Canada became the third country to confirm human cases of swine flu Sunday and multiple nations including New Zealand and Spain also suspect infection. Some are moving to quarantine travelers from affected regions and advising their citizens to postpone travel to certain areas in Mexico.

U.S. officials said they will begin asking travelers about illness if they're entering the country from regions with confirmed swine flu. In a statement on its Web site, Grupo Mexicana said that in light of statements by Mexican health authorities, international passengers traveling to Mexico City, or those who are required to catch connecting flights at the Mexico City airport, may reschedule their flights and/or travel dates at no extra charge.

Mexicana passengers must be scheduled to travel between April 24 and April 30. Chicago-based United Airlines also issued a travel waiver due to the Mexico City swine flu outbreak. On its Web site, United said passengers who purchased tickets on or before Saturday, April 26 for travel through April 30 may change their plans without incurring a penalty.

Houston-based Continental Airlines Inc. is offering to waive change fees for passengers traveling to, from or through Mexico City, Puebla and Toluca, Mexico between April 26 and April 28. Tempe, Arizona-based US Airways Group Inc. and Air Canada are waiving change fees for customers with Mexico City travel plans through April 30.

Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport spokesman David Magana said the airport is experiencing normal operations. Airport officials are "working closely with airlines and with local, state and federal health and emergency management agencies to monitor and assess the situation," he wrote in an e-mail to The Associated Press.



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Police fire pellets at Kent State rioters

MEGHAN BARR

Associated Press Writer

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — An end-of-year college block party spiraled out of control as police fired pellets and used pepper spray to break up hundreds of rioting students who sparked a string of street fires at Kent State University.

Video posted on the Internet shows students hurling furniture and street signs into the flames on Saturday night as a police commando team in riot gear converged on the crowd. Kent police said

the party grew violent after one reveler was arrested and students began pelting officers with bottles, bricks and rocks. It was the first violent clash between Kent State students and police in years.

In 1970, four Kent State students were killed by Ohio National Guard troops during a campus protest of the invasion of Cambodia.

"They were burning pretty much everything," said police dispatcher Rosemarie Mosher. "They were throwing stop signs on the fires, they were throwing chairs, couches, tree

branches. Basically anything they could get their hands on."

At least 64 students were arrested, and several officers suffered minor injuries, Mosher said.

Kent State spokesman Tom Neumann said the students' behavior is inexcusable and the university is awaiting more information from police. "Obviously, things got a little bit out of hand," Neumann said. The university has not received any reports of injured students, he said.



Police with shields form a line in Kent, Ohio on Saturday, April 25, 2009. An end-of-year college block party at Kent State University spiraled out of control when police fired baton rounds and used pepper spray to break up hundreds of rioting students who sparked a string of street fires.

Associated Press

Storms pound Midwest again, damaging buildings

By AMY LORENTZEN

Associated Press Writer

DES MOINES, Iowa — Strong thunderstorms packing possible tornadoes battered parts of the Midwest on Sunday for a second straight day, damaging at least half a dozen buildings and a campground in Iowa and two Oklahoma homes. Tornadoes were reported in eastern Iowa, western Oklahoma and south-central Kansas, but there were no immediate reports of serious injuries.

In Kansas, a possible tornado touched down in the Lake Afton area southwest of Wichita. Two people were injured when the camper they were in was flipped by the storm, said Sgt. Oscar Thomasson of the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Department. A possible tornado swept through the northeast part of Linn County, Iowa, destroying campers at a campground near Central City and causing "significant" damage to about a half-dozen homes and buildings in its path, said Mike Goldberg, the county's emergency coordinator.

No injuries had been reported about three hours after the storm, and Goldberg said "it's looking favorable" that there wouldn't be any. Teams were still checking homes one by one in the areas hardest hit, including at the

campground, he said. Strong to severe thunderstorms moved across the southern two-thirds of the state throughout the afternoon, with some areas seeing nickel- to quarter-sized hail. Power outages were reported Sunday in eastern Iowa and western Oklahoma, while utility crews in southern Michigan worked to restore power to thousands of homes and businesses blacked out by thunderstorms that raked the region a day earlier with wind up to 70 mph.

A mobile home and a frame home were damaged Sunday by a possible twister in Ellis County, Okla., said state Department of Emergency Management spokeswoman Michelann Ooten. Numerous roads and bridges were closed because of heavy rainfall that accompanied the storms on back-to-back days.



J.J. Estill, left, and Aaron Amsler sit where a single car garage once stood Sunday, April 26, 2009, after a tornado touched down in North Enid, Okla late Saturday.

Associated Press



Security problems uncovered at U.S. bases in Iraq

RICHARD LARDNER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A commission investigating waste and fraud in wartime spending has found serious deficiencies in training and equipment for hundreds of Ugandan guards hired to protect U.S. military bases in Iraq, The Associated Press has learned.

The problems at Forward Operating Bases Delta and Hammer include a lack of vehicles used to properly protect the two posts, a shortage of weapons and night vision gear, and poorly trained guards. Both bases house several thousand U.S. military personnel.

Concerned the shortages leave the bases vulnerable, the Commission on Wartime Contracting alerted military officials in Iraq and at U.S. Central Command in Tampa,

Florida.

"Incidents such as this are a concern in their own right, but they are a particular concern to the commission if they prove to be indicators of broader, systemic problems that impede the delivery of critical services to American military forces in a war zone," said Bob Dickson, the commission's executive director.

Army Lt. Col. Brian Maka, a spokesman for Multi-National Force-Iraq, said contracting officials have taken the commission's findings seriously. "Security contractors at both sites have corrected or are in the process of correcting deficiencies," he said Saturday.

The military relies on hired guards at bases in Iraq so troops are available for combat duties. Overall, there are five companies providing security at bases in Iraq under

contracts with an estimated value of \$250 million. A majority of the guards are from Uganda and other East African countries. Guard salaries are about \$700 a month on average.

Triple Canopy of Herndon, Virginia, holds the \$35 million security contract at Base Delta. Sabre International Security, based in Baghdad, has a \$42 million contract to provide security at Base Hammer. Under the terms of both contracts, awarded in September 2007, the companies are required to provide all labor, weapons and other equipment that the guards need. U.S. officers at Base Hammer said they did not feel secure due to the inadequate qualifications and training of the guards, according to information the commission



Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., left, looks on as Sen. James Webb, D-Va., testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press

has sent to military authorities, members of Congress and the State Department. The officers at Hammer required the Sabre guards to take a 40-hour course on security operations before they could begin working. Sabre representatives could not be reached for comment. The company's Web site does not list a telephone number. An e-mail message was not immediately returned.

At Base Delta, Triple Canopy has not provided guards with enough vehicles to cover the facility's perimeter, the commission found. As a result, the guards frequently rely on the military for transportation. Basic personal gear, such as gloves, is often scarce.

Houston-based KBR Inc., which has a separate contract to provide food, transportation and housing for U.S. forces, has had to assist both Sabre and Triple Canopy, the commission said.

"Triple Canopy is completely contract compliant at FOB Delta," said Jayanti Menches, a spokeswoman for Triple Canopy.

The commission also voiced alarm at the abrupt exit from Iraq of Triple Canopy's on-site manager at Base Delta, John Wayne Nash. Dickson and other commission staff on a fact-finding trip to Iraq met with Nash on April 5 and he confirmed the problems existed.

A day later, they learned from an officer at Base Delta that Nash had been told by his superiors to leave the country. Commission staff said it appeared that Nash had been fired for talking to the commission. "We talked

with him one day and he was leaving the country five days later," Dickson said.

Reached at his home in Jacksonville, North Carolina, Nash, a retired Marine Corps master gunnery sergeant, referred questions to his lawyer in Washington. In a brief note to the AP, the lawyer, Thomas Fay, would only say that he is representing Nash "in connection with the circumstances surrounding his departure from Iraq as an employee of Triple Canopy." Menches, Triple Canopy's spokeswoman, said Nash is still employed by the company and is currently home on a regular rotation.

Sen. James Webb of Virginia, a co-sponsor of the legislation establishing the Wartime Contracting Commission, said it would be "unacceptable" if any contractor employees were terminated for cooperating with the commission.

"An employee of a government-contracted firm does not contract away his or her obligation — not right — to talk forthrightly with properly constructed government inquiries," Webb said in a statement to the AP.

Triple Canopy's government business is growing dramatically. The company last month won a State Department contract worth \$977 million over five years to protect U.S. diplomats on the ground in Iraq.

As of February, there were more than 9,200 contract security personnel in Iraq and more than 7,000 of those were not Americans or Iraqis, according to the Defense Department.

Democrats push for interrogation investigations

DOUGLASS K. DANIEL

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A leading Democratic senator said Sunday that independent investigators should determine whether Bush administration officials ought to face charges over the harsh interrogation techniques used against suspected terrorists. The White House had hoped to put the matter behind it by letting the attorney general make that call.

Other liberal Democratic lawmakers appearing on the Sunday television news shows joined Sen. Carl Levin of Michigan in pressuring the Obama administration to pursue investigations into the interrogation policies. But they stopped short of demanding charges against the Bush-era lawyers and other officials who devised the policies that critics have denounced as torture.

Conservative Republican senators characterized the Democratic effort as counterproductive and politically motivated at the least and, at worst, damaging to national security.

Obama has said he would not seek to punish CIA officers and others who carried out interrogations resulting from high-level legal advice and policy decisions within the

Bush administration. Obama said Attorney General Eric Holder would decide whether prosecutions were warranted against those who developed the policies.

Levin said he has recommended that the Justice Department select up to three people outside the department, such as retired federal judges, to recommend any charges or other actions against lawyers and others who developed the policies.

"That decision should not be made by politicians, by partisans, by Democrats or Republicans. It is made traditionally by a Department of Justice who is supposed to make these decisions independently," Levin said.

Last week, the Senate Armed Services Committee, which Levin heads, issued a report linking the CIA's interrogation program to the military's aggressive tactics against prisoners at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq, the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and in Afghanistan.

The report led Levin and others to dismiss the Bush administration's contention that the humiliating treatment of prisoners at Abu Ghraib, blamed for inflaming the Iraq insurgency, had been the act of a few misguided soldiers.

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3 men hurt in shooting at Hampton University

STEVE SZKOTAK

Associated Press Writer

HAMPTON, Virginia (AP)

— A former Hampton University student armed with three guns followed a pizza delivery man into the student's former dorm early Sunday, shot the delivery man and a dorm monitor, then turned the gun on himself, university officials said. All three survived.

No current students were injured and both victims and the alleged shooter were expected to recover. Officials could offer no motive for the shooting.

Hampton President William R. Harvey, who said he arrived within 15 minutes of the shooting, told a news conference the campus shooting could have been much worse.

"I think we are very, very fortunate. This could have been another — you fill in the blank," Harvey said.

The 18-year-old former student, who is from New York City, apparently parked his car off campus to avoid a vehicle checkpoint at Hampton's main gate, then followed the pizza delivery man on foot and inside a freshman dormitory, Harkness Hall. Once inside, he shot the pizza man and entered the monitor's office and fired three shots at him, then shot himself, Hampton University Police Chief Leroy Crosby said.

Crosby said he didn't know what prompted the shooting. The monitor, who suffered two gunshot wounds in his arms and a third in the leg, has been released from the hospital, Harvey said.

"He feels, as I do, that he was extremely lucky and blessed," Harvey said of the

monitor.

The other two, including the alleged shooter, were in stable condition.

The shooting victims are 62 and 43. The university did not release their names.

Hampton police are leading the investigation and requested that details be withheld at the news conference, Crosby said.

Hampton police Cpl. Paula Ensley said Sunday afternoon the suspect had not yet been charged but no other details in the case were being released.

Jelani Holland, 18, a freshman from Los Angeles, said he and other students were playing music and video games in the all-male freshman dormitory when they heard a fire alarm sound early Sunday. As they left their rooms, they saw the delivery man shot in the neck and stomach outside the monitor's office. Police were applying pressure to his wounds, he said.

"He was shaking a lot and talking with police," Holland said.

Harvey said when he arrived at Harkness, a lockdown was already in place and Harkness Hall had been evacuated.

David Wilkins, a freshman from Germantown, Maryland, said when he and his fellow dorm mates left Harkness they were instructed to go to other dorms.

"A lot of people didn't know what was going on in Harkness," he said of other students on campus. He said the first alert wasn't received until around 2:30 a.m.

"People were trying to figure out what was going on," Holland said.

Hampton officials said the first alert was issued at 2 a.m. They defended the timing of the alerts but Harvey said: "We'll go over every aspect of this."

Hampton University is a private school in southeastern Virginia with about 5,700 students. It was founded in 1868 during Reconstruction to educate black leaders for the newly freed slaves.

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Hampton Police patrol in front of Hampton University campus Sunday, April 26, 2009, in Hampton, Va. An 18-year-old man shot the night manager and another man inside a Hampton University dorm before turning the gun on himself, police and school officials said. All three were hospitalized.

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Mexico City locks itself in amid swine flu fears

DAVID KOOP

Associated Press Writer

MEXICO CITY (AP)

— The cardinal said Mass in a shuttered cathedral. Soccer teams played to empty stadiums. Mexico's overcrowded capital locked itself indoors Sunday, terrified by a new strain of swine flu that was quickly spreading around the world.

Mexico City residents — chilangos, they're called — are accustomed to living in public view. They eat greasy tacos at stands along smog-choked avenues, play pickup soccer games on potholed streets and snuggle with sweethearts on benches in tree-lined parks.

But on Sunday even the enormous Zocalo plaza, where throngs of families congregate for street performances and open-air concerts, was all but empty. A handful of women



A police officer wearing a surgical mask invites a man to leave at the entrance of the Metropolitan Cathedral in Mexico City, Sunday, April 26, 2009. Churches stood empty Sunday morning in heavily Catholic Mexico City after services were canceled due to a new strain of swine flu that has people increasingly fearful and that health officials say could become a global epidemic.

Associated Press

Developments on swine flu worldwide

The Associated Press

Key developments Sunday on swine flu outbreaks:

— Deaths: 86, all in Mexico. 22 confirmed as swine flu, 64 suspected.

— Sickened: 1,384 in Mexico, suspected or confirmed; 20 confirmed in U.S.; 6 confirmed in Canada; 13 suspected in New Zealand; 7 suspected in Spain; 1 suspected in France; 1 suspected in Israel; 1 suspected in Brazil.

— Locations in Mexico: 17 states, including Mexico City, Mexico State, Veracruz, Oaxaca, Baja California and San Luis Potosi. Some, including Oaxaca, Mexico City and Baja California, have tourist areas, but authorities have not said where in these states the outbreaks occurred.

— Locations in U.S.: 8 in New York, 7 in California, 2 in Kansas, 2 in Texas and 1 in Ohio.

— Safety measures in Mexico: In Mexico City, surgical masks given to subway passengers, public events canceled, schools and public venues closed and church services postponed. President Felipe Calderon has assumed new powers to isolate infected people. World Bank is providing Mexico with more than \$200 million in loans to help with the outbreak.

— Safety measures in U.S.: Roughly 12 million doses of Tamiflu being moved from federal stockpile to be delivered to states. Travelers at border asked about travel to flu-stricken areas. St. Francis Preparatory School in New York, where eight cases are confirmed, closed Monday and Tuesday. St. Mel's Catholic School in Fair Oaks, Calif.,



Mexico's Health Secretary Jose Angel Cordova pauses during a news conference in Mexico City Saturday April 25, 2009. Federal authorities have extended school closures in the capital and two other states with swine flu outbreaks for 10 more days and he said in the news conference that the new strain has killed as many as 81 people in Mexico, though only 20 deaths have been confirmed.

Associated Press

closed until at least Thursday as officials investigate possible infection of seventh grader.

major boulevards are closed to cars. Restaurants and bars were empty.

"We normally get 200 diners over the course of the day," said waiter Eduardo Garcia, wearing a surgical mask as he presided over empty tables of an Italiani's restaurant in the Zona Rosa neighborhood. "Today's pretty bad. Nobody's coming out of their houses." Schools have been canceled in the capital and the states of Mexico and San Luis Potosi until May 6. Hundreds of public events including concerts and sports matches have been called off to keep people spreading the virus in crowds. Zoos were closed and visits to juvenile correction centers were suspended.

Twenty people have been sickened in the United States and six in Canada, and suspected cases were being reported as far away as Israel and New Zealand. The U.S. declared a public health emergency, providing for easier access to flu tests and medications, and enhanced surveillance along the U.S.-Mexico border.

In Mexico, 86 deaths are suspected to be swine flu, with 22 of those confirmed. Nearly 1,400 people are believed infected. In Mexico City alone, five people died since Saturday of influenza, with two of them confirmed to be swine flu, Mayor Marcelo Ebrard said.

Most of those who died sought medical help only after the disease was well advanced, Mexico City Health Secretary Armando Ahued said. By Sunday, throngs of Mexicans were rushing to hospitals, some with just a fever.

"We don't know if it's the flu or not, but we're very worried," said Sergio Zunin, a 59-year-old merchant, waiting outside the Obregon Hospital for his brother, a police officer, who complained of a respiratory infection.

But while most people stayed home, others had no choice. Daniela Briseno, 31, swept a gutter with a broom made of twigs, wearing a jumpsuit and two dirty blue surgical masks she says she found.

"I should be at home," she said, "but I have a family to support."

World Bank

Continued from front page

There is widespread recognition that the world faces an unprecedented economic crisis, poor people could suffer the most and that we must continue to act in real time to prevent a human catastrophe," World Bank chief Robert Zoellick said. Poor countries have watched as the recession has dried up investment capital, sharply reduced exports and commodity prices and slowed the flow of cash sent home by their citizens working abroad. Finance ministers at the meeting said impoverished nations need a hand up that doesn't burden them with debt or add to the ranks of those earning just a few dollars a day.

The World Bank has pledged to provide poor countries with more than \$55 billion for public works projects left in limbo when the recession hit. That follows a tripling in lending, to \$12 billion, to support health, education and other safety net programs in poor countries. The International Monetary Fund is doubling the borrowing limits for 78 of the poorest countries in an effort to meet the needs of developing nations harmed by the downturn.

The economic crisis is "advancing like a silent tsunami, with those who contributed least to the crisis suffering most from its impact," said German development minister Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul. She said it would take more money to help stabilize poor nations "without plunging them into a spiral of debt."

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner said multilateral development banks, led by the World Bank, are at the forefront of international efforts to lift more people out of poverty. "We meet at an unprecedented time when a severe global economic slowdown threatens to reverse major progress in poverty reduction," Geithner said. But he added that it was important that development banks conduct their aid business with transparency.

The World Bank meeting

capped three days of talks in Washington about the economic crisis, but yielded no new pledges of money from governments.

Finance ministers from the Group of Seven wealthy nations met first on Friday, followed by a gathering of the Group of 20 nations, which adds major emerging powerhouses like China, India and Brazil to the mix. The talks ended with the World Bank and IMF flexing a more muscular role in addressing and overseeing the crisis. Both Zoellick and IMF managing director Dominique Strauss-Kahn expressed support for the emerging market economies to have a stronger voice at the twin financial institutions.

Earlier this month in London, leaders from the G-20 pledged to boost support for the IMF, the World Bank and other international lending organizations by \$1.1 trillion to combat the global recession — the biggest chunk being \$500 billion for emergency lending by the IMF. More than \$300 billion has been pledged by the U.S., the European Union, Japan, Canada, Switzerland and Norway.

To make up the shortage, the IMF agreed Saturday to sell bonds — something it's never done in its 65 years — to emerging economies. Those nations want a greater voice at the IMF before they'll pony up additional resources. The bonds would help reach the \$500 billion goal, but the notes will provide shorter-term financing than the pledges already made by other nations.

Outside the World Bank and IMF headquarters, dozens of demonstrators gathered. Protesters chanted: "IMF, tear it down! World Bank, tear it down!" They also held banners and signs that read, "No Bailout. No Capitalism" and "Free People Not Trade."

The demonstration Sunday followed a larger one Saturday in which more than 100 protesters clashed with police. Protesters said that by pledging more money to the IMF, wealthy countries were propping up a failed

system. They said the IMF had given bad policy advice during past economic crises and the poorest countries were feeling the pain of a global financial meltdown they didn't create. Anti-poverty advocates said some World Bank initiatives to help poor countries come with too many strings attached.

"At least the door has been left open in some key areas and there is a commitment to frontload bank funding to low-income countries," said Oliver Biston, European director of ONE, which fights poverty and disease, especially in Africa. "Urgent action is now needed from the World Bank to protect the billion poorest people on the planet who had no part in creating the economic crisis but who will be hit the hardest."

The World Bank meeting took place as governments raced to



Mexico's Secretary of Finance Agustin Carstens, left, who serves as chairman of the Development Committee of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, sits with World Bank President Robert Zoellick, center, and IMF Managing Director Dominique Strauss-Kahn, right, at the IMF and World Bank's Development Committee meeting at World Bank headquarters, Sunday, April 26, 2009.

Associated Press

avert a pandemic of swine flu, which has surfaced in Mexico, Canada, the United States and other nations. The World Bank

was providing Mexico, the hardest-hit country, with more than \$200 million in loans to help it deal with the outbreak.

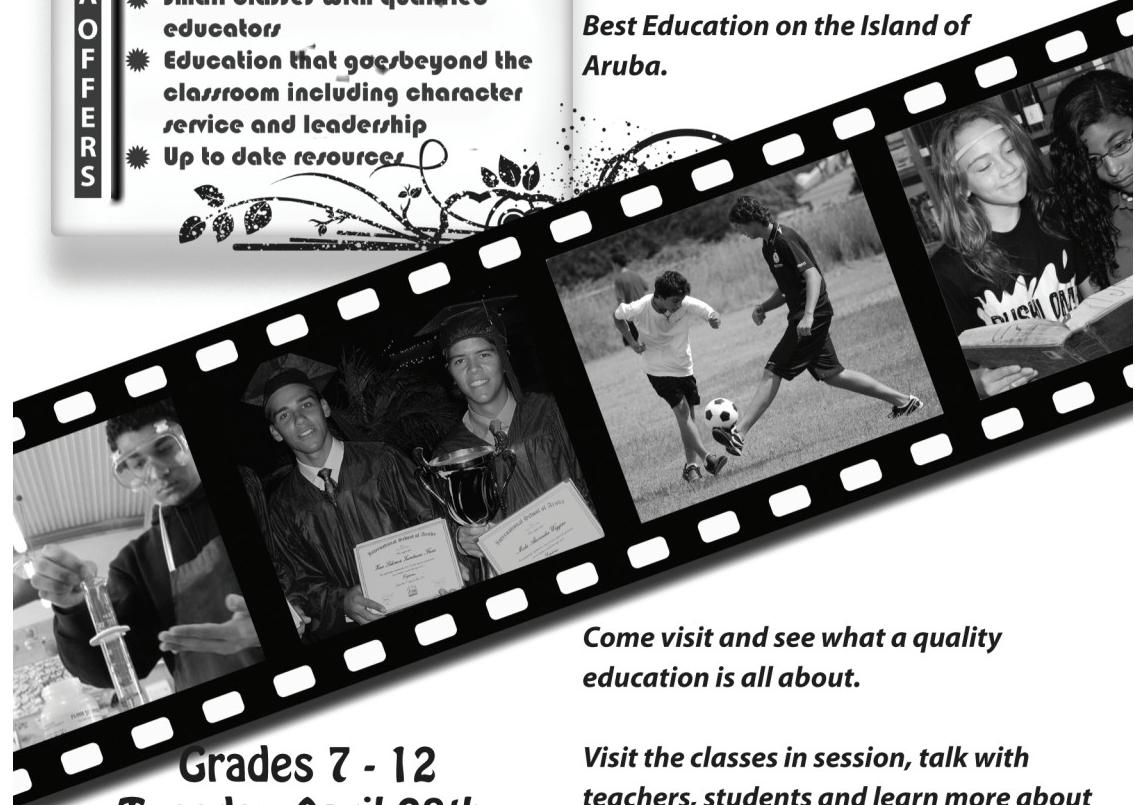
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Clinton says U.S. never will 'sell out' Lebanon

MATTHEW LEE

Associated Press Writer

BEIRUT (AP) — Ahead of an election that could oust the U.S.-backed Beirut government, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said Sunday that Washington supports "voices of moderation" and never will make a deal Syria that "sells out" Lebanon's interests.

The June 7 vote could boost the Iranian-backed Hezbollah and its allies, possibly paving the way for renewed Syrian influence over Lebanon.

"The people of Lebanon must be able to choose their own representatives in open and fair elections without the specter of violence or intimidation and free of outside interference," Clinton

told a news conference after meeting with President Michel Suleiman.

"Beyond the elections, we will continue to support the voices of moderation in Lebanon and the responsible institutions of the Lebanese state they are working hard to build. Our ongoing support for the Lebanese armed forces remains a pillar of our bilateral cooperation," she added.

Syria dominated Lebanon for nearly three decades before it was forced to withdraw its tens of thousands of troops four years ago in the wake of the assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri. There have been concerns among anti-Syrian factions in the pro-U.S. parliamentary majority that the Obama administration's



U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, left, meets with Lebanese President Michel Suleiman, right, at the Lebanese Presidential Palace, in Baabda east of Beirut, Lebanon, Sunday April 26, 2009. U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton met Sunday with Lebanon's president on a stop in Beirut ahead of a critical election that could see a pro-U.S. government ousted by the Iranian-backed Hezbollah and its allies.

Associated Press

talks with Syria could weaken American support for Lebanon. In a possible sign of a new diplomatic openness between the U.S. and Syria, American officials noted that Clinton's Air Force plane flew to Lebanon from Kuwait directly through Syrian airspace, instead of bypassing it as such flights usually do. Clinton said she delivered a letter from Obama to Suleiman expressing strong support for a free, sovereign and independent Lebanon. She said U.S. attempts to engage Syria and Iran are not being done at the expense of that support.

"There is nothing that we would do in any way that would undermine Lebanon's sovereignty," Clinton said. "I want to assure any Lebanese citizen that the United States will never make any deal with Syria that sells out Lebanon and the Lebanese people. You have been through too much and it is only right that you are given a chance to make your own decisions," Clinton said.

"It's a complicated neighborhood you live in and you have the right to your own future," she added. Hezbollah spokesman Ibrahim Mussawi said Clinton's visit could have a negative impact on the pro-U.S. factions in the country. Speaking on the group's Al-Manar TV after Clinton arrived, Mussawi said it was too early to tell whether the Obama administration has reassessed its

policy. But, he added, American "interference in the past was never positive." He also criticized what he termed a "double standard and deception," when the U.S. calls for Islamic factions to participate in elections and then refuses to accept the results if they win.

Clinton first trip to one of the most volatile countries in the Middle East lasted a little less than three hours. She would not speculate on the results of the election and what the U.S. would do if Hezbollah wins, stressing a free and fair elections.

U.S. officials have said they would review aid to Lebanon, including military assistance, depending on the composition of the new government. The United States has provided \$1 billion in aid since 2006, including \$410 million in security assistance to the military and the police.

Although the U.S. and Israel regard Hezbollah as a terrorist organization, the militant Shiite group shares power in Lebanon's current government and along with its allies, has veto power on major decisions. A strong showing by Hezbollah would further boost Iranian and Syrian influence in the Mideast and could harm Arab-Israeli peace efforts.

While urging free and fair elections, the Obama administration is treading carefully. The Bush administration encouraged the

Palestinian legislative elections in 2006 and then saw the radical Hamas movement win handily and badly damage efforts to broker an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal.

Reflecting that concern, Clinton met during her brief stay with just one senior official, Suleiman. U.S. officials say her meeting with Suleiman only is because the U.S. doesn't want to be seen as taking sides in the elections. Suleiman is considered a consensus leader and neutral in the political struggle.

Even if it wins, Hezbollah cannot rule alone because of Lebanon's complex, sectarian power-sharing system in which the major of the 18 sects must be represented in parliament and the Cabinet.

Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah says the group knows that trying to dominate Lebanon's politics would destabilize the country. In the past four years, Lebanon has nearly tumbled into a repeat of the 1975-90 civil war as the pro-Syrian and pro-U.S. camps struggled for the upper hand.

Hezbollah has taken the strategy of a low-key election campaign with a moderate message, aiming to show that a victory by its coalition should not scare anyone. Nasrallah has even said that if the coalition wins, it would invite its opponents to join in a national unity government to ensure stability.

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Iraq: US raid 'crime' that breaks security pact

BRIAN MURPHY

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq's prime minister denounced a deadly U.S. raid on Sunday as a "crime" that violated the security pact with Washington and demanded American commanders hand over those responsible to face possible trial in Iraqi courts.

The U.S. military, however, strongly denied that it overstepped its bounds and said it notified Iraqi authorities in advance — in accordance with the rules that took effect this year governing U.S. battlefield conduct.

The pre-dawn raid in the southern Shiite city of Kut ended with at least one woman dead after being caught in gunfire and six suspects arrested for alleged links to Shiite militia factions.

But efforts were quickly launched in an attempt to tone down the dispute.

The six detainees were released, said Major Gen. Read Shakir Jawdat, head of the provincial police that includes Kut. At the same news conference, U.S. Col. Richard Francey offered condolences to the family of the woman killed.

The fallout marks the most serious test of the security pact so far and could bring new strains during a critical transition period.

U.S. forces plan to move out of most major Iraqi cities by the end of June in the first phase of a promised withdrawal from the country by the end of 2011.

A statement from Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki — in his role as commander general of Iraqi forces — called the raid a "violation of the security pact."

He asked the U.S. military "to release the detainees and hand over those responsible for this crime to the courts," according to an Iraqi security official who read the statement to The Associated Press.

Elsewhere in Iraq, gunmen stormed two Christian homes in separate attacks in the ethnically diverse city of Kirkuk, killing at least two

Chaldean Christians and one Assyrian, said police Brig. Burham Taib.

The northern city is a fault line between the majority Kurds and Arabs, but also includes ethnic Turks and various Christian groups. A U.N. report given to Iraqi leaders last week recommends giving Kirkuk a "special status" with oversight by both the Kurd region and the central government in Baghdad.

In Kut, the cascade of protests and questions began just hours after the sweep into Kut, which the U.S. military said targeted suspected backers of Shiite militias believed to have links to Iran.

Hundreds of demonstrators gathered at the mosque in Kut, about 100 miles (160 kilometers) southeast of Baghdad, to decry the American action and demand an investigation.

The provincial council then called an emergency meeting and a three-day mourning period. The Iraqi Defense Ministry also ordered the arrest of two high-ranking Iraqi officers for their alleged roles in allowing U.S. forces to operate in Kut.

"We condemn this crime," said Mahmoud al-Etaibi, head of the council.

Iraq's military spokesman, Maj. Gen. Qassim al-Moussawi, described it as the "first violation after signing the security pact."

The U.S. military said its troops acted within the framework of the security pact, saying "the operation was fully coordinated and approved by the Iraqi government."

The accord, which took effect Jan. 1, requires American commanders to coordinate raids and other pre-planned strikes with the Iraqi government and military, or work in joint U.S.-Iraq units. At least one person died in the raid, which the U.S. military said targeted the financier of Shiite militia factions believed to be backed by the Iranians. Iraqi officials placed the death toll at two.

The Defense Ministry

spokesman, Mohammed al-Askari, said an Iraqi brigade commander and a battalion commander were arrested for "allowing American troops to conduct a military operation in Kut province without informing the Iraqi government or coordinating with it."

Kut provincial police chief, Brig. Gen. Raed Shakir Jawdat, said he was unaware a raid was conducted. The U.S. military did not provide information on whether Iraqi security forces took part.

The military said a woman was in the area during an exchange of gunfire with one of the suspects and "stepped into the line of fire."

It said those detained were suspected of aiding so-called "special groups" — Shiite militia factions that were once part of the Mahdi Army of anti-American cleric Moqtada al-Sadr — and another faction known as the Promise Day Brigades created by al-Sadr.

Washington says the special groups are backed by Iran.



In this photo taken Sunday, April 19, 2009, Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki gestures as he speaks at a meeting at the Iraqi Interior Ministry in Baghdad, Iraq. Al-Maliki denounced a deadly U.S. raid on Sunday April 19, 2009 in the southern Shiite city of Kut, which left at least one person dead and six arrested, as a "crime" that violated the security pact with Washington and demanded American commanders hand over those responsible to face possible trial in Iraqi courts.

Associated Press

Tehran denies the charges.

Iraqi police officials say the wife and brother of a local

clan leader were killed. They also say the soldiers arrested the clan leader, Ahmed Abdul Muneim al-Bdeir, his brother

— an Iraqi police captain — and five others related to the al-Bdeir.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not allowed to release the information.



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Holder close to making decision on Gitmo detainees



In this April 23, 2009 file photo, Attorney General Eric Holder testifies before the House Appropriations Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press

DEVLIN BARRETT

Associated Press Writer

LONDON (AP) — The United States is "relatively close" to making decisions on what to do with an initial group of Guantanamo Bay detainees, U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder said Sunday.

Holder spoke to The Associated Press during a flight to London, the first of several stops where he will visit with European leaders to discuss terrorism, drugs, and cyber-crime.

The attorney general did not say how much longer he thought it would take to close the Guantanamo Bay detention facility in Cuba. Before

officials can meet President Barack Obama's January deadline, the U.S. must first decide which detainees to put on trial and which to release to the U.S. or other countries. Holder said the first step is to decide how many total detainees will be set free.

"We're doing these all on a rolling basis," he said. "I think we're probably relatively close to making some calls." The attorney general has called the Guantanamo work the toughest part of his job.

After eight years in which the previous Bush administration alienated European nations over issues like the Iraq war and Guantanamo Bay, the

Kim Jong Il's son elevated to defense post

HYUNG-JIN KIM
Associated Press Writer

KIM

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korean leader Kim Jong Il's youngest son has reportedly been named to the powerful National Defense Commission, an appointment analysts said indicates the 26-year-old is being groomed to take power.

Kim Jong Un speaks English, likes basketball — and is said to look and act just like his father. The reclusive, nuclear-armed communist nation's next leader has been the focus of intense media speculation since Kim, 67, reportedly suffered a stroke last summer.

Kim has ruled with absolute authority since his father, Kim Il Sung, died in 1994, leading to the communist world's first hereditary power succession.

Kim Jong Il has allowed no

opposition, raising concerns about a power struggle if he dies suddenly without naming a successor.

The eccentric leader has three known sons by two women. The oldest, Kim Jong Nam, was long considered his favorite — until he tried to sneak into Japan using a fake Dominican passport and visit Tokyo's Disney resort in 2001. The middle son, Kim Jong Chol, apparently has never been a favorite as a possible leader. Kim Jong Il's former sushi chef says in a 2003 memoir that the leader considers his second son "girlish."

But talk about the youngest son has been growing. On Sunday, South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported Kim Jong Un was assigned to a low-level post at the defense commission, the top government body, several days

before his father was reappointed as the commission's chairman on April 9. That reappointment marked the first major public appearance for the "Dear Leader" after his reported stroke. He was gaunter, grayer.

Yonhap, citing unidentified sources it says are privy to North Korea affairs, said Kim Jong Un's appointment means he has embarked on his training as successor and is expected to move step by step into the commission's higher-level posts.

South Korea's Unification Ministry and the National Intelligence Service said they cannot confirm the report. Little is known about Kim Jong Un. The former sushi chef, Kenji Fujimoto, says in his memoir that the son looks and acts just like his father.

The teen studied at the

International School of Bern in Switzerland, a short walk from the North Korean embassy, where classes are taught in English and many students come from diplomatic families.

A recent article in the French-speaking weekly L'Hebdo described Kim Jong Un as a shy student enrolled under the name of Chol Pak, who enjoyed team sports like basketball, went skiing with friends on Fridays and admired Michael Jordan and Jean-Claude Van Damme.

"He had a lot of friends among the children of American diplomats," the school's past director, David Gatley, told L'Hebdo.

Kim Jong Il believes his youngest son has "charismatic leadership" like him, said Cheong Seong-chang, a senior analyst at the security think tank Sejong Institute.

generate good will.

Currently, there are 17 Uighurs held at Guantanamo. In recent weeks, officials reinterviewed each of them in preparation for their eventual transfer. The government has cleared them for release, but insists it will not hand them over to China because the Uighurs fear they will be tortured.

The Uighurs were captured in Pakistan and Afghanistan in 2001. Uighurs are from Xinjiang, an isolated region that borders Afghanistan, Pakistan and six Central Asian nations. They say they have been repressed by the Chinese government. China has said that insurgents are leading an Islamic separatist movement. Any country that takes them is likely to anger Beijing.

"No one else is going to do it. No one else is going to take that heat when they didn't create the problem. So we have to do it," said Sabin Willet, a lawyer for the Uighurs. "They need to unlock the door soon."

Some Republicans, though, want to keep the doors bolted.

"There is reason to believe (the Uighurs) are not as peaceful or as nonthreatening as the administration seems to be suggesting," said New York Rep. Peter King, the top Republican on the House Homeland Security Committee.



This photo released by (North) Korean Central News Agency via Tokyo-based Korea News Service on Friday, Jan. 23, 2009, shows North Korean leader Kim Jong Il in Pyongyang, North Korea's capital, on Friday, Jan. 23, 2009. Kim's youngest son, Kim Jong Un, has reportedly been named to the powerful National Defense Commission, an appointment that analysts said Sunday, April 26, 2009 indicates the 26-year-old is being groomed to take power. Associated Press

Ecuador's Rafael Correa declares re-election victory

GONZALO SOLANO

Associated Press Writer

QUITO, Ecuador (AP) — President Rafael Correa, a leftist champion of the poor, declared re-election victory Sunday just moments after the polls closed — a win that breaks sharply with Ecuador's history of political instability. Three separate exit polls said Correa garnered well over half the vote in an eight-candidate field, making him the first president elected in Ecuador in 30 years without a runoff. Correa, who promised to rid the small Andean nation of its corrupt political class when first elected in 2006, danced, sang his party anthem and pumped fists with his close political advisers in his home city of Guayaquil. Exit polls predicted a victory moments after voting ended.

"We will never defraud the Ecuadorean people," he told

cheering supporters. "I think that's why we received such immense support. We've made history in a nation that between 1996 and 2006 never saw a democratic government complete its term."

International observers reported no serious irregularities in the voting Sunday.

Exit polls done for state TV and two independent channels gave Correa at least 54 percent of the vote, with former president and coup leader Lucio Gutierrez a distant second.

To win without forcing a runoff, a candidate needed either 50 percent of the vote plus one or at least 40 percent with a 10-point margin over his closest competitor.

The vote was mandated by the new constitution that voters approved in September by a 64 percent margin. It strengthens

the president's hand and makes him eligible to run in 2013 for another consecutive four-year term.

A feisty, 46-year-old economist who blames the global economic crisis on capitalism's "structural flaws," Correa has alarmed foreign investors by defaulting on debt payments in tough dealings with oil companies and other multinationals.

And he's imposed some of the world's strictest protectionist measures, including tariffs that have put imported goods out of reach for many consumers. But the charismatic, sharp-tongued Correa has largely won over the lower classes. He tripled state spending on education and health care, doubled a monthly payment for single mothers to \$30 and launched subsidy programs for small farmers and people building their own homes.



Ecuador's President Rafael Correa celebrates after learning the first unofficial exit polls show he is leading in presidential elections in Guayaquil, Ecuador, Sunday, April 26, 2009.

Associated Press

"I voted for Correa because there is honesty in his government. He's very different from the others and gets things done," 56-year-old dentist Manuel Guerrero said after casting his ballot.

Gutierrez, his main opponent, contended a Correa re-election would put Ecuador on the road to ruin as the recession digs in this year.

"Ecuadoreans have shut down their businesses and they're going to neighboring

countries, and fewer foreign investors will come," he said during campaigning.

Voters at home and abroad on Sunday also chose a new 124-seat National Assembly — six seats of which will directly represent the Ecuadorean diaspora — as well as governors and mayors.

The new constitution lowers the voting age to 16 and permits soldiers, police and prison inmates awaiting trial to vote for the first time.



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Sri Lankan soldiers look on near a display consisting of arms captured from Tamil Tiger rebels in Killinochchi, about 143 miles northeast of Colombo, Sri Lanka, Friday, April 24, 2009.

Associated Press

B H A R A T H A M A L L A W A R A C H I
Associated Press Writer
COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Facing imminent battlefield defeat, Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels declared a unilateral cease-fire Sunday and called on the government to halt its offensive to spare the tens of thousands of civilians trapped by the fighting.

The cease-fire declaration came amid a chorus of

international appeals for a pause in the fighting to allow the estimated 50,000 ethnic Tamil civilians remaining in the war zone to escape. The government and aid groups accuse the rebels of holding the civilians hostage to blunt the government offensive, a charge the rebels deny.

Reports from the region have detailed growing cases of starvation and civilian casualties in recent days.

The United Nations, which says nearly 6,500 civilians have been killed over the past three months, has sent its top humanitarian official on an emergency mission to Sri Lanka to push for a cease-fire. John Holmes met Sunday

with senior government officials to underscore "the urgent need for humanitarian access by the U.N. to the combat zone," U.N.

spokesman Gordon Weiss said. The government barred aid workers from the region when the fighting escalated in September.

Holmes was to head Monday to the northern region of Vavuniya to inspect displacement camps and hospitals that have been overwhelmed by the more than 100,000 civilians who fled the war zone over the past week.

British Foreign Secretary David Miliband will also visit Sri Lanka with his French and Swedish counterparts on Wednesday to try to mediate on the conflict, according to a statement from the prime minister's office in London.

In response to the international truce appeals, the rebels said Sunday that all offensive military operations would "cease with

immediate effect." They asked the international community to pressure the government to halt its offensive as well, saying the "humanitarian crisis can only be overcome by the declaration of an immediate cease-fire," according to a statement e-mailed to The Associated Press.

Both sides have declared previous cease-fires during the recent fighting, but they did little more than briefly disrupt the war's momentum because the other side continued fighting.

The Tamil Tigers, listed as a terrorist group by many Western nations, have been fighting since 1983 for an ethnic Tamil state in the north and east after decades of marginalization by governments dominated by the Sinhalese majority.

The rebels ran a shadow state across a vast swath of the north. But a government offensive forced them out of their strongholds in recent months, cornering them into a narrow coastal strip 6 kilometers (less than 4 miles) long.

New fighting erupted Sunday in the shrinking war zone, with navy patrol boats attacking a squad of rebel craft in a two-hour battle, destroying three boats and killing at least 12 insurgents, the military said.

Army troops also seized the rebel-held village of Valayarmadam after gunbattles, said military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara.

In a sign rebel morale was crumbling, 23 insurgents dressed as civilians surrendered to the advancing troops, Nanayakkara

said. Many rebel fighters wear glass vials filled with cyanide around their necks and are under orders to commit suicide rather than allow themselves to be captured.

Last week, two prominent rebels — the group's former media spokesman, Velayutham Dayanithi, known as Daya Master, and an interpreter for its political wing, known only as George — also surrendered.

Despite international concern, the offensive is wildly popular with many Sinhalese.

President Mahinda Rajapaksa's coalition won a sweeping victory Sunday in a local election seen as a referendum on the war. The government won nearly two-thirds of the vote in the Western Province poll and even secured a majority in the capital,



Internally displaced Sri Lankan ethnic Tamil civilians gather around a truck to receive food at a camp for the displaced in Manic Farm in Vavuniya, Sri Lanka, Sunday, April 26, 2009.

Associated Press

Colombo, long a stronghold of the opposition United National Party, which advocated talks with the rebels.

"The electorate ... clearly responded to the call of the president for a united Sri Lanka," Media Minister Anura Yapa said.

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Iceland's leftist coalition win general election

GUDJON HELGASON

Associated Press Writers

REYKJAVIK (AP) — Iceland's leftist coalition was confirmed on Sunday as the winner of the country's general election — a blow for the pro-business Independence Party that many blamed for the collapse of the country's banking system.

Results showed that a left-wing coalition made up of the Social Democratic Alliance and the Left Green Movement won 34 out of the 63 seats in Parliament. With 97.9 percent of the votes tallied, the Social Democrats won 30.5 percent of the vote, or 20 parliamentary seats, while the Left-Green Movement won 21.5 percent, or 14 seats. Both parties have long said they will form a coalition government. The left-wing coalition is led by interim Prime Minister Johanna Sigurdardottir.

The two parties are part of a caretaker government that took office in February after public

protests about Iceland's economic collapse toppled the previous conservative administration. Voter turnout was just over 85 percent — slightly higher than in the 2007 elections.

The results were an overwhelming rejection of the conservative Independence Party, which has held a parliamentary majority for some 70 years.

Although the Independence Party won 23.7 percent of the vote — 16 seats — many have blamed its leaders for the country's economic troubles.

Independence Party leader Bjarni Benediktsson said his party would accept the results of the election and said the losses would "spur the party on."

The global financial crisis washed up hard on the shores of the volcanic island of 320,000 people. After racking up massive debts during years of laissez-faire economic regulation and rapid expansion, Iceland's three main banks collapsed within the space

of a week in October.

The government has sought a \$10 billion International Monetary Fund-led bailout but the country's currency, the krona, has plummeted.

Unemployment and inflation have spiraled and the IMF has predicted that the economy will shrink by about 10 percent in 2009, which would be Iceland's biggest slump since it won full independence from Denmark in 1944.

"The nation is settling the score with the neoliberalism, with the Independence Party, who have been in power for much too long," Sigurdardottir told supporters late Saturday. "The people are calling for a change of ethics. That is why they have voted for us."

Most of the parties offered vague solutions to tackle Iceland's current financial woes.

The Social Democrats ran on a socialist ticket, promising as many as 6,000 new jobs in the building, tourism, fishing and



Prime Minister Johanna Sigurdardottir waves after casting her ballot in Hagaskoli, Iceland Saturday April 25 2009. Icelanders voted Saturday in an early parliamentary election expected to see them turn their backs on the lawmakers who were in charge when the tiny Nordic nation's financial system collapsed last year. With the country's banking system collapsed, and its national debt soaring, voters are expected to endorse the parties in the caretaker government - an alliance of Social Democrats and Left-Greens led by Sigurdardottir - turning their minority coalition into a majority in Iceland's parliament, the Althingi.

Associated Press

energy industries. They also called for a constitutional change that would allow for public ownership of natural resources. The Left Greens promised reductions in foreign debt, interest rates and Iceland's trade deficit.

The biggest issue in the election,

however, was membership in the EU — seen by many voters as a magic bullet for Iceland's financial troubles even though membership could take years. The results represented a strong victory for Iceland's pro-European Social Democratic Alliance.



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BUSINESS

Aruba TODAY



Swine flu fears prompt quarantine plans, pork bans

GENEVA – Canada became the third country to confirm human cases of swine flu Sunday as global health officials considered whether to raise the global pandemic alert level. Nations from New Zealand to Spain also reported suspected cases, and some warned citizens against travel to North America while others planned quarantines, tightened rules on pork imports and tested airline passengers for fevers. The six Canadian cases in Nova Scotia and British Columbia all had links to people who had traveled to Mexico, and all are the same swine flu strain. The six people have recovered, said Dr. David Butler-Jones, Canada's chief public health officer.

But "these are probably not the last cases we'll see in Canada," he said.

The news follows the World Health Organization's decision Saturday to declare the outbreak first detected in Mexico and the United States a "public health emergency of international concern."

A senior World Health Organization official said the agency's emergency committee will meet for a second time Tuesday to examine the spread of the virus before deciding whether to increase the alert for a possible pandemic, or global epidemic.

The same strain of the A/H1N1 swine flu virus has been detected in several locations in Mexico and the United States, and it appears to be spreading directly from human to human, said Keiji Fukuda, WHO's assistant director-general in charge of health security.

Mexico's health minister says the disease has killed up to 86 people and likely sickened up to 1,400 since April 13. U.S. officials say the virus has been found in New York, California, Texas, Kansas and Ohio, but no fatalities have been reported.

Governments including China, Russia and Taiwan began planning to put anyone with symptoms of the deadly virus under quarantine.

Others were increasing their screening of pigs and pork imports from the Americas or banning them outright despite health officials' reassurances that it was safe to eat thoroughly cooked pork.

Some nations issued travel warnings for Mexico and the United States.

WHO's emergency committee is still trying to determine exactly how the virus has spread, Fukuda said.

"Right now we have cases occurring in a couple of different countries and in multiple locations," he said. "But we also know that in the modern world that cases can

simply move around from single locations and not really become established."

Raising the pandemic alert phase could entail issuing specific recommendations to countries on how to halt the disease. So far, WHO has only urged governments to step up their surveillance of suspicious outbreaks.

WHO Director-General Margaret Chan called the outbreak a public health emergency of "pandemic potential" because the virus can pass from human to human. Her agency was considering whether to issue nonbinding recommendations on travel and trade restrictions, and even border closures. It is up to governments to decide whether to follow the advice.

"Countries are encouraged to do anything that they feel would be a precautionary measure," WHO spokeswoman Ashaluck Bhatiasevi said. "All countries need to enhance their monitoring."

New Zealand said 10 students who took a school trip to Mexico "likely" had swine flu, and on Monday it said three students in a second group had mild flu symptoms and were being tested. Israel said a man who had recently visited Mexico had been hospitalized while authorities try to determine whether he had the disease. French Health

Ministry officials investigated four possible cases of swine flu, but three were found to be negative. In Brazil, a hospital said a patient who arrived from Mexico was hospitalized with some swine flu symptoms.

Spanish authorities said seven suspected cases were under observation.

Hong Kong and Taiwan said visitors who came back from flu-affected areas with fevers would be quarantined. China said anyone experiencing flu-like symptoms within two weeks of arrival from an affected area had to report to authorities. A Russian health agency said any passenger from North America running a fever would be quarantined until the cause of the fever is determined.

Tokyo's Narita airport installed a device to test the temperatures of passengers arriving from Mexico.

New Zealand health officials started screening passengers arriving at Auckland International Airport from the United States and other parts of North America. Bolivia said it would start on Monday to screen passengers coming from Mexico and the United States and isolate any found to be infected.

Indonesia increased surveillance at all entry points for travelers with flu-like symptoms — using devices at airports that were put

in place years ago to monitor for severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS, and bird flu.

Hong Kong and South Korea warned against travel to the Mexican capital and three affected provinces. Italy, Poland and Venezuela also advised their citizens to postpone travel to affected areas of Mexico and the United States.

Symptoms of the flu-like illness include a fever of more than 100 degrees Fahrenheit (37.8 degrees Celsius), body aches, coughing, a sore throat, respiratory congestion and, in some cases, vomiting and diarrhea.

The virus is usually contracted through direct contact with pigs, but Joseph Domenech, chief of animal health service at U.N. Food and Agriculture Agency in Rome, said all indications were that the virus is being spread through human-to-human transmission.

No vaccine specifically protects against swine flu, and it is unclear how much protection current human flu vaccines might offer.

Russia banned the import of meat products from Mexico, California, Texas and Kansas. South Korea said it would increase the number of its influenza virus checks on pork products from Mexico and the U.S.



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SPORTS**Aruba TODAY**

Keselowski wins Talladega on wild final lap

JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

TALLADEGA, Alabama (AP) — Brad Keselowski won his first Sprint Cup Series race Sunday after a dramatic final lap at Talladega Superspeedway when Carl Edwards' airborne car crashed into the fence near the finish line.

Seven fans were injured from debris that flew into the crowd, and Edwards warned that restrictor-plate racing is eventually going to kill someone.

Keselowski, racing in just his fifth career Cup race, hooked onto the rear of Edwards' bumper on the last lap to push him past Ryan Newman and Dale Earnhardt Jr. Once clear of them, Keselowski peeked around Edwards to make a move for the lead.

Edwards tried to block the move, but Keselowski was too close to his bumper and the contact sent Edwards spinning up the track. His car shot over Newman's hood



Carl Edwards (99) goes airborne after crashing with Ryan Newman, rear, and Brad Keselowski on the final lap of the Aaron's 499 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race at Talladega Superspeedway in Talladega, Ala., on Sunday, April 26, 2009. Keselowski won the race.

Associated Press

and into the safety fence on the frontstretch.

The fence bowed toward the race fans but held, and Edwards' car landed back on the track.

One of the lasting images of Sunday's race will be the pink-clad woman strapped to a stretcher, her head in a brace as she was airlifted to a hospital after debris from Edwards' last-lap crash with winner Brad Keselowski sailed into the grandstands.

Edwards, who climbed from the fiery wreckage and crossed the finish line on foot, was thankful it wasn't worse.

"I'm glad the car didn't go up in the grandstands," he said. "I saw some fencing at one point and that made me a little bit nervous."

Continued on page 20

NBA Playoffs

Bulls beat Celtics in 2OT

CHICAGO (AP) — Ben Gordon scored 22 points, hitting the tying 3-pointer in the first overtime, as the Chicago Bulls beat the Boston Celtics 121-118 in double overtime Sunday to tie their first-round series at two games apiece.

Derrick Rose added 23 points, 11 rebounds and nine assists. John Salmons scored 20 points after a slow start, hitting four free throws in the final 26 seconds of the game and blocking Paul Pierce's attempt at a tying 3-pointer.

Boston's Ray Allen buried a 3-pointer with 9.8 seconds left in regulation to tie it at 96-all, and Rose missed a fadeaway in the closing seconds of regulation. Gordon came through with 4.5 seconds left in the first overtime, hitting a 3-pointer over Pierce to tie it at 110-all, and the Bulls never trailed in the second overtime.

Pierce led Boston with 29 points, although he was just 9-for-24. Ray Allen added 28, and Rajon Rondo finished with 25 points, 11 rebounds and 11 assists.

Cavaliers 99, Pistons 78

At Auburn Hills, Michigan, LeBron James had 36 points, 13 rebounds and eight assists to lead Cleveland to a first-round sweep of Detroit.

The top-seeded Cavs might be off for more than a week, waiting for Atlanta or Miami to advance.

Detroit, meanwhile, will have its longest offseason since 2001 and about \$20 million in salary-cap space to rebuild a once-proud team.

Mo Williams scored a career playoff-high 24 for the Cavs. Detroit's Antonio McDyess had 26 points, tying a career playoff high.

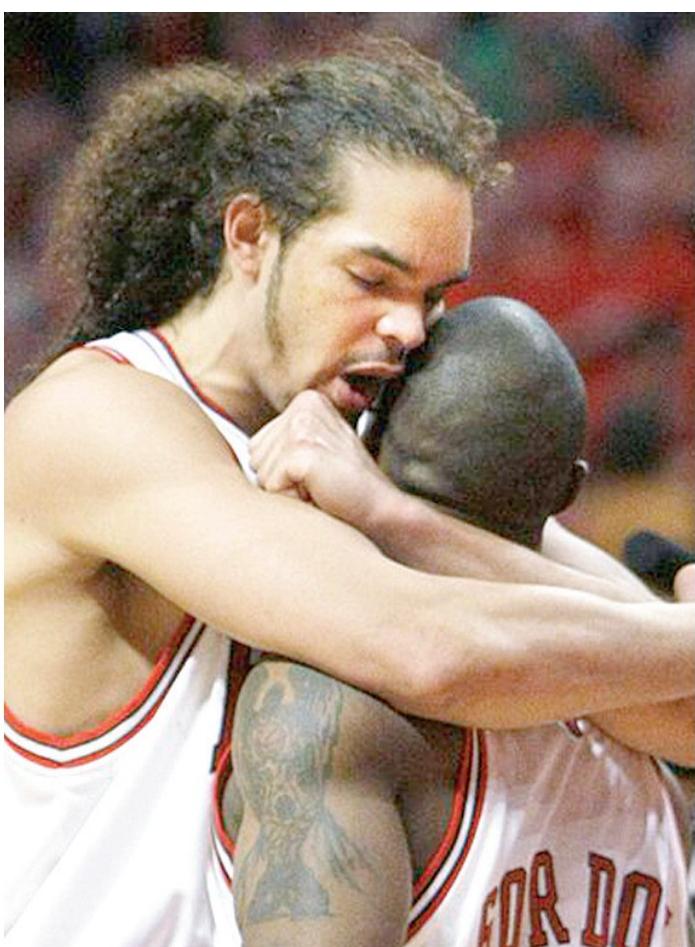
Magic 84, 76ers 81

At Philadelphia, Hedo Turkoglu nailed a 3-pointer over Thaddeus Young with 1.1 seconds left to lift Orlando over Philadelphia, leveling their Eastern Conference first-round series at two games apiece.

Dwight Howard had 18 points and 18 rebounds, and every Magic starter scored in double figures. Turkoglu and Rashard Lewis each added 17.

Andre Miller led the Sixers with 17 and Young had 15.

Game 5 of the best-of-seven series is Tuesday night in Orlando. The teams have alternated wins so far.



Chicago Bulls center Joakim Noah, left, hugs guard Ben Gordon after their 121-118 double-overtime win over the Boston Celtics in Game 4 of a first-round NBA playoff basketball series in Chicago, Sunday, April 26, 2009.

Associated Press

NHL Playoffs

Capitals beat Rangers to level series 3-3

NEW YORK (AP) — Tom Poti had a goal and two assists as the Washington Capitals won 5-3 Sunday in Game 6 against the New York Rangers, who had to make do without suspended coach John Tortorella.

Rangers goalie Henrik Lundqvist didn't make it to the third period for the second straight game, and Poti beat his former team as the Capitals tied the first-round playoff series 3-all and set up a decisive Game 7 on Tuesday night in Washington.

The Capitals had trailed the series 3-1 before a pair of routs.

Tortorella served a one-game suspension following a confrontation with a fan during New York's 4-0 loss in Game 5 on Friday that sent the series back to Madison Square Garden. Tortorella squirted water into the crowd and threw a water bottle over the glass and into the stands. Hurricanes 4, Devils 0

At Raleigh, North Carolina, Eric Staal scored two goals less than 3 minutes apart and Cam Ward made 28 saves in his third career playoff shutout to help Carolina force Game 7. Ray Whitney had a goal and three assists, Jussi Jokinen scored Carolina's first power-play goal since Game 2, Chad LaRose had two assists and Staal added an assist for the Hurricanes.

They outshot New Jersey 37-28 while their reconfigured top line produced the first three goals, and that helped lead to the most lopsided final score of the NHL's tightest first-round pairing.

The best-of-seven series is even at three games apiece, with the winner-take-all Game 7 set for Tuesday night in New Jersey.



Washington Capitals celebrate a goal by Tom Poti as New York Rangers' Marc Staal (18) Lauri Korpikowski (29), goaltender Henrik Lunqvist (30), of Sweden and Dan Girardi (5) react during the first period of an NHL first-round hockey playoff game Sunday, April 26, 2009 at Madison Square Garden in New York. The Capitals beat the Rangers 5-3 to even the series 3-3.

Associated Press

Ochoa wins in Morelia for second straight year

CARLOS RODRIGUEZ

Associated Press Writer

MORELIA, Mexico (AP) — Mexico's Lorena Ochoa had a 5-under 68 on Sunday to hold off Norway's Suzann Petterson by a stroke in a dramatic final round and defend her title at the Corona Championship.

Ochoa, who also won the tournament in 2006, had back-to-back birdies on the 15th and 16th holes to break a tie with Petterson and finish at 25-under 267.

The charismatic star played without regular caddy Dave Booker, who was injured playing soccer on Saturday and was unable to help the 27-year-old Ochoa around Tres Marias Residential Country Club. She ended up calling on childhood coach Rafael Alarcon to caddy for her.

He was evidently up for the

challenge, helping Ochoa win her 26th career title and second this season. It was also Ochoa's third win in her home country, where she has played 11 of the 13 LPGA Tour events staged there.

South Korea's Na Yeon Choi finished third at 18 under, Wendy Ward was another shot back and Christie Kerr and Yani Tseng tied for fifth at 16-under par.

Ochoa, who won last year's tournament by 11 shots, didn't have such an easy time on Sunday despite finishing the tournament with the exact same score.

Starting the day with a one stroke lead, Petterson tied it with a birdie on the third hole, Ochoa recaptured the lead with a birdie on the fourth, and the Norwegian birdied again at the fifth to tie it once more.



Mexico's Lorena Ochoa holds her trophy after winning the final round of the LPGA Corona Morelia golf championship in Morelia, Mexico, Sunday, April 26, 2009.

Associated Press

Ochoa took a two-stroke lead with birdies on the sixth and eighth, but a bogey at the 11th and Petterson's birdie at the 12th tied it again. Ochoa took the lead for good with birdies at No. 15 and No. 16, denying Petterson her first LPGA Tour win since 2007.

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Jerry Kelly wins Zurich Classic by 1 stroke

MARY FOSTER

AP Sports Writer

NEW ORLEANS (AP) —

After enduring a seven-year winless streak and a pair of bogeys that dropped him out of the lead, Jerry Kelly's 1-stroke victory in the Zurich Classic on Sunday was plenty of reason to celebrate.

"It's been a long time," said Kelly, who took an umbrella from the parade marshal, put on his tasseled sash and danced his way off the 18th in a victory celebration as the brass band played an exuberant Dixieland tune. "I

sometimes doubted if it was ever going to happen again." Kelly offset bogeys on No. 8 and No. 10 with birdies on Nos. 5, 11 and 14 for a 1-under 71 in the final round and a 14-under total 274, one stroke ahead of three players.

It was the 42-year-old Kelly's first PGA Tour title since he won two in 2002 — exactly 200 starts ago.

Charles Howell took advantage of Kelly's mid-round stumble with one of his six birdies on 11, which gave him a two-stroke lead.

But bogeys at 15 and 17 left him in a share of second with Rory Sabbatini (67) and Charlie Wi (68).

"It's frustrating," said Howell. "I got up to 15, and had every chance to do it. I just couldn't finish it off."

Steve Marino, playing with Kelly, stayed within one shot until the 18th. Instead of getting the victory or forcing a playoff, he hit his tee shot into a fairway bunker and then needed two putts. He put up his third bogey and finished at 70, tied for fifth at 276.



Jerry Kelly kisses the championship trophy after winning the Zurich Classic golf tournament in Avondale, La., Sunday, April 26, 2009. Kelly claimed the championship by shooting a one-under-par 71 in the final round.

Associated Press

"I thought I hit a great third shot in there, and it just came off like half a club short in that bunker," Marino said. "And that was it."

Kelly, meanwhile, calmly rolled his final putt about 2½ feet for par and the championship. Despite the long title drought, Kelly said he really didn't have trouble with his nerves until his final putt on 18. He said practicing deep-breathing techniques settled him down.

His first tournament victory since claiming the Sony Open and Advil Western

Open in '02 provided Kelly with his biggest payday ever. The winning purse moved Kelly from No. 97 to No. 14 on the money list with \$1.4 million. It also earns him full exempt status through 2011. And it netted him 500 FedExCup points, moving him to 17th in the standings. David Toms, who won this tournament in 2001, had five birdies for a 68 on the day after a bogey on the first hole. His 276 not only tied him with Marino, it boosted him in the FedExCup standings and into the Players Championship.

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AL Roundup

Blue Jays edges White Sox 4-3

CHICAGO (AP) — Scott Rolen hit a go-ahead RBI single in the eighth inning, helping the Toronto Blue Jays beat the Chicago White Sox 4-3 Sunday to secure their sixth straight series win this season.

Rod Barajas had three hits for the Blue Jays, who have won eight of 11 games.

Vernon Wells led off the eighth with a double off White Sox reliever Scott Linebrink (0-1). Adam Lind walked then Rolen drove in Wells.

After a shaky start, Toronto ace Roy Halladay (4-1) settled down and retired 12 of the last 14 batters he faced.

He allowed three runs and scattered eight in seven innings. Halladay had six strikeouts and walked his first batter in two starts.

Red Sox 4, Yankees 1

At Boston, Jacoby Ellsbury stole home and the Boston Red Sox finished off with a three-game sweep of the New York Yankees.

Boston's speedster surprised left-hander Andy Pettitte with his dash in a three-run fifth

inning that gave the Red Sox their 10th straight win.

They came from behind in all three games and trailed Sunday on Brett Gardner's sacrifice fly in the third. But the Red Sox tied it on a sacrifice fly by David Ortiz in the bottom of the inning.

In the fifth, Ortiz doubled in the go-ahead run before Kevin Youkilis was walked intentionally to load the bases. As Pettitte began his windup with J.D. Drew at bat, Ellsbury raced home and slid in headfirst ahead of Jorge Posada's tag. Drew then made it 4-1 with a ground-rule double.

Orioles 8, Rangers 5

At Baltimore, Adam Jones hit a three-run homer in the sixth inning and Baltimore rallied for a victory.

With one out, Cesar Izturis was hit on his left foot and Brian Roberts singled to left before Jones hit an 0-1 slider from reliever Jason Jennings (0-1)

into the seats in left-center to give Baltimore a 7-5 lead. Jones' third homer completed the Orioles' comeback from a



Boston Red Sox's Jacoby Ellsbury steals home under the tag of New York Yankees catcher Jorge Posada during the fifth inning of a baseball game at Fenway Park in Boston on Sunday, April 26, 2009.

Associated Press

5-1 deficit.

Chris Davis, David Murphy and Hank Blalock connected for the Rangers, who lead the major leagues with 38 home runs and have hit two or more in a game 14 times this season, also most in the majors.

Danys Baez (1-1) got the victory with three hitless innings. George Sherrill worked the ninth for his fourth save.

Indians 4, Twins 2

At Cleveland, Aaron Laffey pitched into the seventh inning and rookie Tony Sipp came up with two big strikeouts,

helping Cleveland avoid a three-game sweep.

Laffey (2-0) allowed two runs and five hits in 6 1-3 innings. The Indians were held to one run in each of the first two games of the series, but Ryan Garko's two-run single off Glen Perkins (1-2) in the third gave them a 4-0 lead.

It was the shortest outing of the year for Perkins, who allowed four runs in five innings.

Tigers 3, Royals 2

At Kansas City, Missouri, Brandon Inge hit a two-run homer and Armando Galarraga pitched six solid innings for

Detroit.

Inge connected in the second, driving a 1-1 pitch from Sidney Ponson (0-3) out to left with Jeff Larish aboard after a single. It was his seventh of the year.

Galarraga (3-0) allowed one run and three hits, struck out seven and walked five.

Jose Guillen singled in Coco Crisp in the third but the Royals left the bases loaded when Alberto Callaspo grounded out. Kansas City is 2-for-17 with the bases loaded this season.

NL Roundup

Victorino drives in 4 runs in Phillies' win

MIAMI (AP) — Shane Victorino drove in four runs and Jamie Moyer pitched six solid innings as the Philadelphia Phillies extended the Florida Marlins' skid to six with a 13-2 victory on Sunday.

Florida, which began the season 11-1, is mired in its longest losing streak since an eight-game slide from Aug. 15-22, 2007. The Marlins' latest loss got so out of hand that outfielder Cody Ross pitched a scoreless ninth inning. Moyer (3-1) allowed one run and seven hits to improve to 7-0 at Dolphin Stadium and 12-1 against the Marlins overall.

Pedro Feliz had three hits, two RBIs and scored two runs for Philadelphia.

Graham Taylor (0-1) lasted just 3 2-3 innings in his major league debut for Florida. He walked six and hit a batter with a pitch while allowing four runs and four hits.

Cubs 10, Cardinals 3

At St. Louis, Kosuke Fukudome hit a three-run homer and drove in five on his 32nd birthday, leading Chicago to the victory. Fukudome went 3-for-4 to lift his average to .371 after hitting .257 last season. He hit his fourth homer in the eighth to finish the scoring.

Rich Harden (2-1) struck out nine in six innings for the Cubs, who ended a four-game skid. He allowed two runs and four hits.

Yadier Molina and Rick Ankiel hit solo homers for St. Louis, which had won nine straight home games. Todd Wellemeyer (1-2) was tagged for six runs, five earned, and eight hits in five innings. Derrek Lee hit an RBI double in Chicago's three-run first but left the game before the Cubs took the field in the bottom half because of neck spasms. Micah Hoffpauir replaced him at first base and homered in the seventh.



Shane Victorino hits a single to score teammates Pedro Feliz and Chris Coste in the seventh inning of a baseball game against the Florida Marlins, Sunday, April 26, 2009, at Dolphin Stadium in Miami. Victorino drove in four runs during the game as the Phillies defeated the Marlins 13-2.

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04/24/2009

Talladega

Continued from page 16

I don't know if I could live with myself if I ended up in the grandstands."

Officials said seven fans sustained non-life-threatening injuries, and an eighth fan seated in the same section of the grandstand had an undisclosed medical issue.

Dr. Bobby Lewis, Talladega's onsite physician, said two people in the crowd were airlifted from the track to avoid the heavy traffic. One woman had a possible broken jaw.

"We'll race like this until we kill somebody," Edwards said, "then (NASCAR) will change it."

The dangerous but dramatic restrictor-plate racing came under fire after Edwards' attempt to block Keselowski's winning pass triggered the last of several frightening accidents at one of the sport's most exciting tracks. NASCAR spokesman Jim Hunter said the sanctioning body will analyze the accident, as well as the safety fence, to determine if anything can be improved.

"If there were something that we felt we could do today to make it safer, it would be done," Hunter said. "This is a fast race track. It's wide. I saw guys racing five-abreast today, which I have never seen. We know the cars are safer than they've ever been."

Restrictor plates are used at Daytona and Talladega to combat the high speeds at NASCAR's two fastest tracks. The plates typically keep the field bunched tightly together, and one wrong move by a driver can cause a massive accident.

There were three bad ones Sunday: a 13-car accident on Lap 7, a 10-car accident with nine laps to go, and Edwards' flight to the finish. A day earlier, Matt Kenseth was uninjured in a fiery



Brad Keselowski celebrates in victory lane after winning the Aaron's 499 NASCAR Sprint Cup auto race at Talladega Superspeedway, Sunday, April 26, 2009, in Talladega, Ala.

Associated Press

roll during the Nationwide Series race.

"Talladega is short for 'We're going to crash, we just don't know when,'" said Newman, the third-place finisher. "We saw (an airborne car) two times this weekend, so maybe we need to look at things that keep the car down on the ground."

Earnhardt Jr., a five-time Talladega winner and seven-time winner of restrictor-plate races, finished second but echoed concerns about the racing style. Drivers dread it because so much is out of their control, but

Earnhardt said it's loved by fans because of the danger.

"For years, we've had wrecks like this every time we've come to Talladega. Ever since the plate got here. And for years it was celebrated," he said. "The media celebrated it, the networks celebrated it, calling it 'The Big One,' just trying to attract attention."

"So there's a responsibility with the media and the networks and the sanctioning body itself to come to their senses a little bit." None of the drivers involved in any of the accidents was injured.

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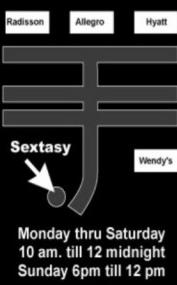
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Crece temor contagio mundial por gripe porcina

81 personas muertas en México

MEXICO DF (Reuters) - Los temores a una rápida propagación de la gripe porcina que habría causado la muerte de hasta 81 personas en México crecían el domingo, mientras aparecían nuevos casos en Estados Unidos y Canadá y otros países estudiaban posibles brotes.

Miles de mexicanos se quedaron en sus casas en la capital, los cines cerraron, se suspendieron las misas y el fútbol se jugó a puertas cerradas. Los pocos que salieron a las calles usaban tapabocas para protegerse de un contagio.

Estados Unidos confirmó 20 casos leves de la influenza porcina en Nueva York, Kansas y Ohio, mientras que Canadá informó de otros seis

En Ecuador Correa habría sido reelecto

GUAYAQUIL/QUITO (Reuters) - El presidente de Ecuador habría logrado el domingo una histórica reelección para un nuevo mandato de cuatro años, en el que ha prometido seguir con sus políticas sociales y su mano dura con inversionistas pese a la crisis económica.

Dos sondeos a boca de urna estimaron que el mandatario habría obtenido alrededor de un 55 por ciento de los votos, superando en más de 14 puntos al ex presidente Lucio Gutiérrez, según encuestas de las firmas Santiago Pérez y Cedatos Gallup.

enfermos.

Los Gobiernos de Francia, España y Nueva Zelanda estudiaban a personas que habían presentado síntomas de la enfermedad. No existe una vacuna contra esta cepa de la influenza, pero es tratable con antivirales, según autoridades.

El presidente mexicano, Felipe Calderón, llamó a la población a mantener la calma y dijo que de 1,384 personas que habían sido internadas con cuadros de influenza porcina, 929 ya habían sido dados de alta.

"Es muy importante actuar rápido y actuar con seriedad, pero también es muy importante mantener la calma y colaborar con las autoridades e informar de los casos que se presenten", dijo Calderón en una reunión con autoridades sanitarias.

Algunos países impusieron inspecciones de salud en



Personas usan máscaras mientras caminan cerca de un hospital en Ciudad de México, 24 abr 2009. Un nuevo tipo de influenza surgida de un virus porcino se propagó en la capital de México y sus alrededores. REUTERS/Henry Romero

aeropuertos y fronteras. Venezuela recomendó no viajar a México y Estados Unidos debido al brote de gripe y Argentina

declaró alerta sanitaria. La Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS) advirtió que el nuevo tipo de virus tiene el potencial de convertirse

en una pandemia y expertos internacionales se pondrán de acuerdo el martes para aconsejar a la entidad si debe declararla.

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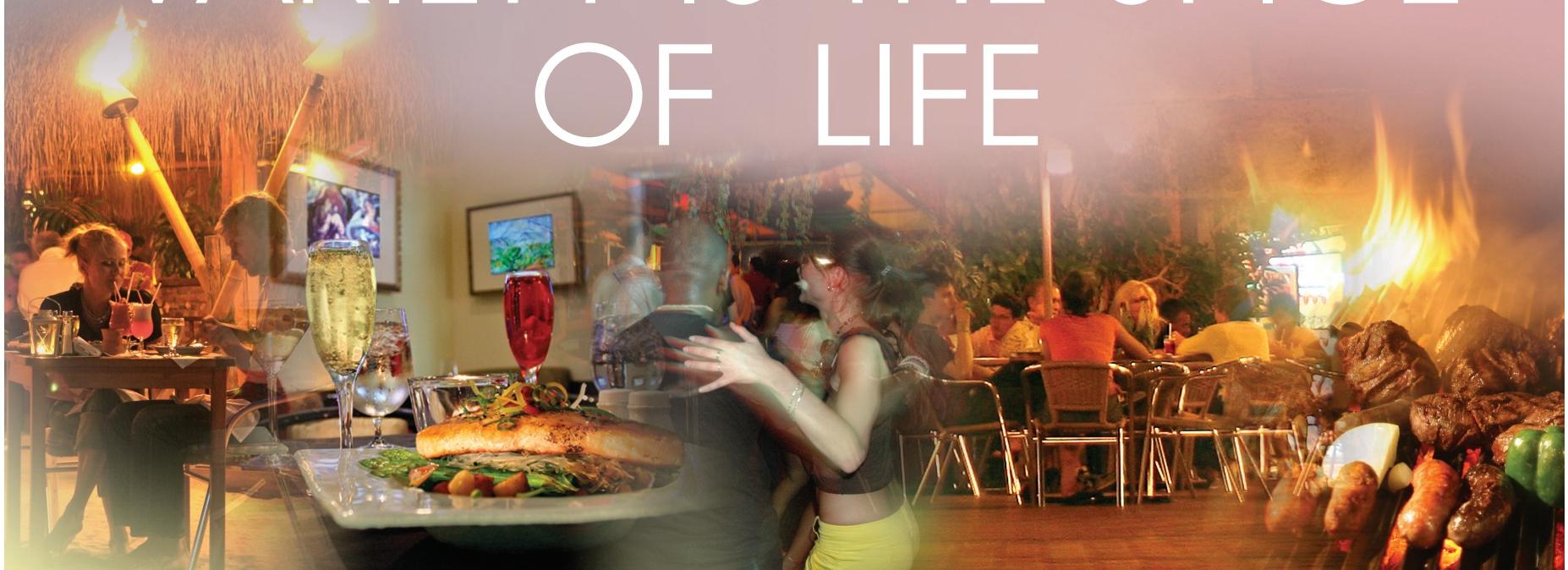
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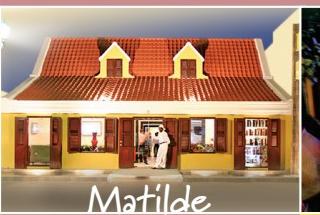
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